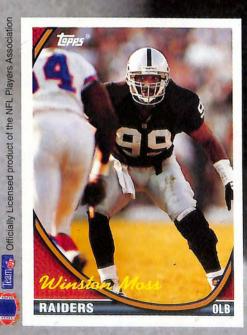
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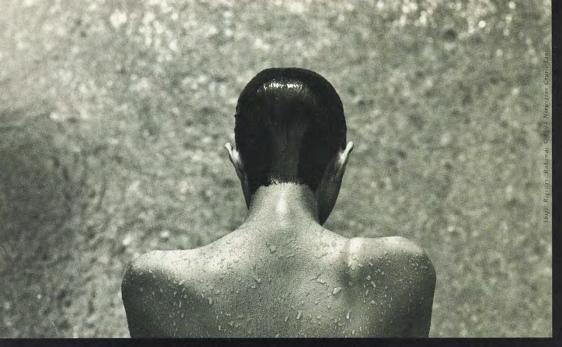
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Street & Smith's Pro Football

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June 1994 **32** nd year

Letter From the Editor

In this the 32nd edition of Street & Smith's Pro Football, we welcome our new affiliation with the National Football League Players Association and join them in saluting the NFL on its 75th anniversary in 1994. We are eagerly awaiting the new season, and in our excitement have created our biggest and most colorful issue ever.

In addition to our annual in-depth team previews, we offer a number of compelling stories. Take, for example, the 1990 draft. That year produced an exceptional group of running backs. Of the 45 selected, 22 are still active, 20 have been starters, 14 have rushed for 100 yards in a game and seven have enjoyed 1,000-yard seasons and been to the Pro Bowl. In the four Super Bowls since that draft, the class of '90 has collected four championship rings. Rodney Hampton got the first one with the New York Giants, Brian Mitchell the second with the Washington Redskins, and Emmitt Smith the third and fourth with the Dallas Cowboys.

Smith operates in a league of his own, so we had to give him his own feature. The 17th player chosen in that draft, Smith is the one indispensable member of the two-time Super Bowl champs. That was evident last September when the Cowboys dropped their first two games with Smith on the sidelines in a contract dispute. Back on track, he won his third straight rushing title, overcame a separated shoulder in the playoffs, and added the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player trophy to the MVP he earned in the regular season. He is on target to shatter the Cowboy records held by Tony Dorsett, who (with Randy White, Bud Grant, Jimmy Johnson, Leroy Kelly, and Jackie Smith) will celebrate the '94 season with an induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

In the four years since the 1990 draft, only one player has crossed the goal line more often than Smith: San Francisco's Jerry Rice. And with three touchdowns this fall, Rice will pass Jim Brown for the top spot in the NFL record book. Don't look for any choreography from him in the end zone. Football's greatest receiver is anti-spike.

The Denver Broncos added a Rice-type receiver in Anthony Miller, the defector from the San Diego Chargers who gives quarterback John Elway the game-breaking threat he has lacked. Miller was one of a record number of high-profile players who changed teams during the spring, making a free-agent scorecard (which we provide) mandatory equipment for fans.

We also include profiles of the game's best defenders. Seth Joyner, the NFL's most versatile linebacker, has relocated from Philadelphia to Arizona to rejoin the Buddy (Ryan) system. Pittsburgh's Rod Woodson is the first back since Kenny Easley in 1984 to be named the league's Defensive Player of the Year.

And for those readers who are not content with an analysis of the 1994 rookies, we present an early preview of the 1995 draft and project the top pick. (Hint: He will be the first small-college quarterback to go No. 1 since Terry Bradshaw in 1970.) See inside for further details.

Gerard Kavanogh



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Running Mates

by RICK GOSSELIN

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

The class of '90 produced an exceptional group of backs.

Pity the pro football class of '83. So many yards, so many touchdowns, so much talent—and so few rings. That NFL draft saw six quarterbacks taken in the first round, including future Hall of Famers Dan Marino, John Elway, and Jim Kelly. But for all of their passes and panache, they have been unable to deliver any championships. The class of '83 is a combined 0-9 in Super Bowls.

REGGIE COBB

Not so the class of '90. That draft was to running backs what the class of '83 was to quarterbacks, gushing with yards, touchdowns, and talent. And in the four Super

Bowls since that draft, the class of '90 has collected four championship rings. Rodney Hampton picked up the first one with the New York Giants, Brian Mitchell the second with the Washington Redskins, and Emmitt Smith the next two with the Dallas Cowboys.

Smith is the obvious valedictorian of his class. He was the NFL

Rookie of the Year in 1990 and has been selected to the Pro Bowl in each of his four seasons. He became the first running back to win three consecutive rushing titles since Earl Campbell and now has the chance to become the first to win four in a row since Jim Brown. Smith's presence would give any draft class a glow But the class of '90

presence would give any draft class a glow. But the class of '90 shines even brighter for its depth. Of the 45 running backs selected, 22 of them are still in the league. Twenty have been starters. Fourteen have checked in with 100-yard rushing games.

Seven have amassed 1,000-yard seasons. Seven have been to the Pro Bowl.

"I remember sitting there on draft day, looking at the board and saying, 'We're going to get a good running back,' " said Bob Ackles, who was the director of player personnel for the Cow-

boys at the time and is now the assistant general manager of the Phoenix Cardinals. "I didn't think we'd get Emmitt Smith... but I knew we were going to get a good one.

Smith . . . but I knew we were going to get a good one.
There were so many of them."

"Sanders f said. "A lot of them."

The NFL can thank Barry Sanders, in part, for that. He was the best college runner in the land in 1988, setting NCAA records with his 2,628 yards and 37 touchdowns at Oklahoma State. He won the Heisman Trophy, leaving little else for him to accomplish on amateur fields. So Sanders decided to skip his senior season and apply for admission to the 1989 NFL draft. Concerned with the possibility of a lawsuit, the NFL awarded Sanders and a handful of other underclassmen special eligibility. Sanders was drafted third overall by the Detroit Lions and became the same dominating runner as a pro that he was as a collegian. He led the NFC in rushing in his first season, setting a club record with 1,470 yards.

"Sanders fit right in to NFL football," Ackles said. "A lot of kids might have been thinking, "Holy cow, that's a big step up." Then they see



1,197 yards and scored 20 touchdowns. An ankle injury limited him to 547 yards as a sophomore, but he seemed to restore his All-America stock as a junior with 616 yards through five games. Then Cobb flunked a random drug test and was off the team. "It was a reality check," Cobb said. "I had just run for 225 yards against Auburn. The

should have been a seventh. Cobb also had

first-round ability. He had better size (6-0,

217) than Thomas and better speed than

Smith. He also had the flashy statistics. As a

freshman at Tennessee. Cobb rushed for

next week, I wasn't playing football. Looking back, it was probably one of the best things that ever happened to me. It made me grow up. I went from being a Heisman Trophy candidate one day to not knowing if I'd ever play football again the next. It was a time when I really needed to get my life straight. Cobb had two options: Enroll at an NAIA

school, which would allow him to play his final college season in 1990 without sitting out a year, or turn pro. His decision was an easy one. "I felt I had done well enough at Division I," Cobb said. "I didn't see how I could benefit by stepping down to an NAIA school. It was time for me to move on.

Tampa Bay stepped up in the second round and drafted Cobb with the 30th overall pick, the seventh running back to go. That § allowed Cobb to put his 1989 season behind him. "At the time I had more yards than all of them," Cobb said. "My backup, Chuck Webb,

Sanders come in and do that and think, 'I can do it too.' I'm sure he had an impact on that run [of underclassmen] in 1990.

Run? Try a stampede. Among those leaving college early for the NFL were the three top halfbacks in the SEC-Smith (Florida), Hampton (Georgia), and Reggie Cobb (Tennessee)-plus two of the best in the ACC in Terry Allen (Clemson) and Marcus Wilson (Virginia). Two of the nation's leading fullbacks joined them: Barry Foster (Arkansas) and Leroy Hoard (Michigan). The success of Sanders was the underlying factor in the exodus. He was the trailblazer for NFL underclassmen. But there were other reasons, such as the fear of injury, coaching changes, financial hardship, concern about a future salary cap. "We all had our own reasons," Hoard said.

The bottom line produced a unique draftday bonanza. Not only would NFL teams have the best senior running backs to choose from in 1990, a class headlined by All-Americas Blair Thomas and Anthony Thompson, but some of the top juniors as well. That double dip created an unprecedented talent pool of running backs. "One of the best," said Ackles of the class of '90, "if not the best."

DRAFT BOARD

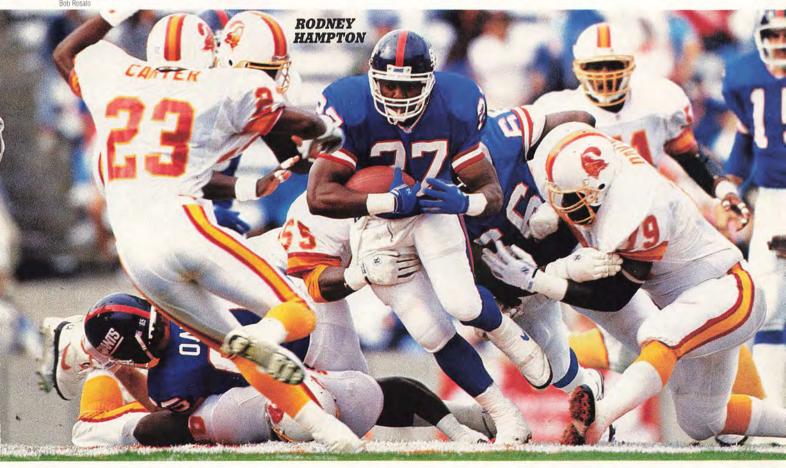
The New York Jets were the first to visit that class when they selected Penn State's Thomas with the second overall pick. But the next back didn't go until Dallas traded up to get Smith in the 17th slot. The Cowboys entered the draft looking for defensive help, but could not swing a trade that would move them up into the top 10. As the draft wound into the teens, Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson surmised that the value on the board when the Cowbovs picked 21st would be at running back and that Hampton was the player most likely to be there. Smith surely wouldn't. He was the fourth player on the Dallas draft board. Somebody would draft him.

But no one did. Smith, who finished third in the nation in rushing, with 1.599 yards, was sliding. So Johnson decided to go get him before someone else did. If he was going to draft a running back, why not draft the best one? The Cowboys had Smith rated higher on their draft board than Thomas. So they moved up four spots in a trade with Pittsburgh and claimed Smith.

"You've got to visualize our board." Johnson recalled. "Emmitt was way up there, kind of as a solitary tag. There weren't any names around him. All the others had been picked. He kind of stood out like a sore thumb. He was the best player on our board by far.

That started the run on runners. Green Bay selected Darrell Thompson of Minnesota at 19 and Atlanta took Steve Broussard of Washington State at 20. The Giants drafted Hampton at 24 and San Francisco followed with Dexter Carter of Florida State at 25. All have started in the NFL and had 100-yard rushing games.

Six first-rounders, mirroring the six quarterbacks in the class of '83. But there probably



came in and finished with about 1.200 yards that year. Those were my yards. A lot of teams told me if it wasn't for that, I'd have been one of the first backs picked. I could have been up there with Blair Thomas."

DRAFT BARGAINS

Cobb proved he belonged up there with Thomas when he rushed for 1,171 yards in his third year with the Buccaneers. Thomas is still looking for his first 1,000-yard season. But Cobb wasn't the only bargain in the draft. The Seattle Seahawks plucked Chris Warren out of tiny Ferrum College in the fourth round. That's a Division III school with no scholarships. But Warren produced Jim Thorpe-like numbers there, amassing 1,714 all-purpose yards and scoring 19 touchdowns. He averaged 7.9 yards per rush, 15.1 yards per catch, 23.4 yards per punt return, and 33.3 yards per kickoff return. He even threw a touchdown pass. Warren may have been competing in Division III, but he wasn't competing with Division III players. His competition was the Emmitt Smiths and Anthony Thompsons.

"I kept track of the guys at the top 20 schools," Warren said. "That gave me something to shoot for. I knew I could be as good as those guys. They were getting all the publicity. If they gained 150 yards, I knew I had to gain 250 to get any kind of recognition in the paper. I wanted to show everyone I was the same caliber of back as they were."

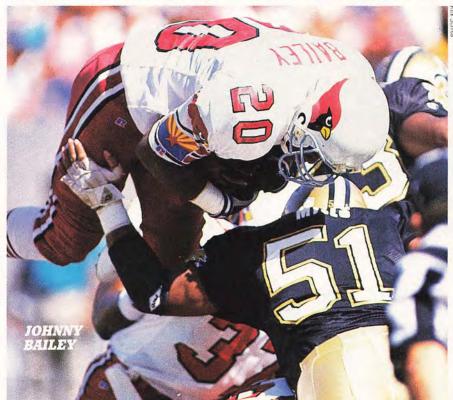
His ticket would be his ability to return kicks. Warren ran five back for touchdowns in his senior year. The Seahawks plugged him in as their return man and he spent his first two NFL seasons on special teams, averaging a respectable 21.9 yards on kickoffs and 9.5 yards on punts. He ran the ball from scrimmage only 17 times those two seasons. When

BARRY
FOSTER

incumbent halfback Derrick Fenner left Seattle in Plan B in 1992, Warren finally got his chance to carry the ball and rushed for 1,017 yards. He followed with another 1,000-yard season in 1993 and was selected for his first Pro Bowl.

"There were no big expectations on me," Warren said. "So anything I did was a plus. But I knew all along I could play at this level. I





knew I'd get a shot. It was just a matter of being patient."

Patience also was a virtue of Larry Centers, another small-school find who went to the Cardinals in the fifth round. He played in a one-back, pass-oriented scheme in his senior year at Stephen F. Austin. He rushed for 1,100 yards, but NFL scouts liked his hands better—hands that caught 44 passes. Centers was projected as a nickel back, but that role was already occupied in Phoenix by veteran Vai continued

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Sikahema. So Centers spent his first two years covering and returning kicks, touching the ball only 33 times from scrimmage. Like Warren, he finally got his chance in 1992 and caught 50 passes. He followed that up with 66 catches last season.

Foster was primarily a blocker and inside runner at Arkansas. He was never a 1,000yard rusher nor an all-Southwest Conference choice. He entered the draft early as a true hardship, needing the money to take care of his family. The Steelers obliged by selecting him in the fifth round. Foster played sparingly as a rookie, then became the starting halfback in 1991. But an ankle injury cost him six games and parts of two others, limiting him to less than 500 yards. When Bill Cowher became coach in 1992 and installed a power offense, Foster was off and running. He led the AFC in rushing with a club-record 1.690 yards and was in the hunt for consecutive rushing crowns when a sprained ankle ended his 1993 season at nine games and 711 yards. Despite playing just half the season, Foster was voted to his second Pro Bowl.

HIDDEN GEMS

The Redskins also found Mitchell at a small school (Southwestern Louisiana). Strike one. He was a quarterback there. Strike two. But he was an option quarterback-and what an option he was when he kept the football. Mitchell became the first player in NCAA history to pass for 5,000 yards and rush for 3,000 in a career. The fact that he ran for more touchdowns (47) than he threw (23) convinced the NFL that his future was his legs. Washington drafted Mitchell in the fifth round, and he has developed into one of the premier return men in the NFL. He has career averages of more than 20 yards on kickoffs and 10 yards on punts with three touchdowns. He also had a 100-yard rushing game in the 1992 playoffs and another in the 1993 regular season against the Super Bowl champion Cowboys.

Don't be surprised, Mitchell cautioned. "Look at Walter Payton. He didn't go to Nebraska or Notre Dame. He went to Jackson State. There's an assumption that just because you went to a bigger school, you're a better talent. That's not necessarily so."

Like Cobb, the college career of Johnny Johnson ended prematurely. He was booted off the San Jose State team midway through the 1989 season for missing practices. Since he was a senior, pro football was his only option. Johnson may have been as gifted an athlete as there was in the 1990 draft. He started at wide receiver in 1987, then in '88 became the first player in NCAA history to rush for 1,200 yards and catch 60 passes in the same season. He also played basketball that winter and had a 23-point. 12-rebound game against UNLV. But NFL teams backed off Johnson because of disciplinary concerns before the Cardinals finally claimed him in the seventh round. Johnson promptly beat out Anthony Thompson, the Heisman Trophy runner-up and second-round pick of the Cardinals, for the starting halfback spot and joined fellow rookie Smith in the Pro Bowl. Johnson rushed for 926 yards, falling short of a 1,000-yard season because of an ankle injury that sidelined him for two games. He was traded to the Jets in 1993 and put another skill on display with his team-leading 67 receptions.

No running back in any draft had better statistics than Johnny Bailey. He rushed for an NCAA-record 6,320 yards at Texas A&I. But with his size (5-7, 175) and caliber of competition (Division II) working against him, Bailey slid to the ninth round, where the Chicago Bears claimed him. He hung on for two years in Chicago as a return man before jumping to the Cardinals in Plan B in 1992. He led the NFL in punt returns that season and was se-

lected to the Pro Bowl.

Allen was even more of a long shot than Bailey. He rushed for 1,139 yards as a college sophomore in 1988, but his numbers fell off as a junior when he suffered a knee injury at midseason. He underwent arthroscopic surgery that December, then decided to skip his senior year because of a coaching change at Clemson. But his medical chart scared NFL teams away before the Minnesota Vikings halted his slide in the ninth round.

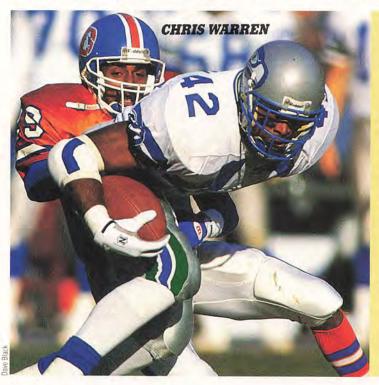
"I wasn't disappointed at all," Allen said. "Considering my knee, I was just happy to get drafted. It didn't matter where. There are diamonds in the rough in every draft." Allen stayed in the rough for another year when he suffered a second knee injury in training camp which sidelined him for his rookie season. He made the Vikings as a reserve in 1991 and then vaulted to prominence in 1992 with a 1,201-yard, 13-touchdown performance.

Harold Green, a second-round pick by Cincinnati, also rang up his first 1,000-yard rushing season in 1992 and was selected to the Pro Bowl. Two other second rounders, full-backs Anthony Johnson and Hoard, have made their mark as receivers with 100-yard games. Johnson caught 55 passes for the Indianapolis Colts in 1993 and Hoard 48 for Cleveland in 1991. David Lang, another full-back in that draft, had a three-touchdown day against Atlanta in 1992. The Los Angeles Rams found him in the 12th round.

The roll call for the class of '90 is an impressive array of good and great players.

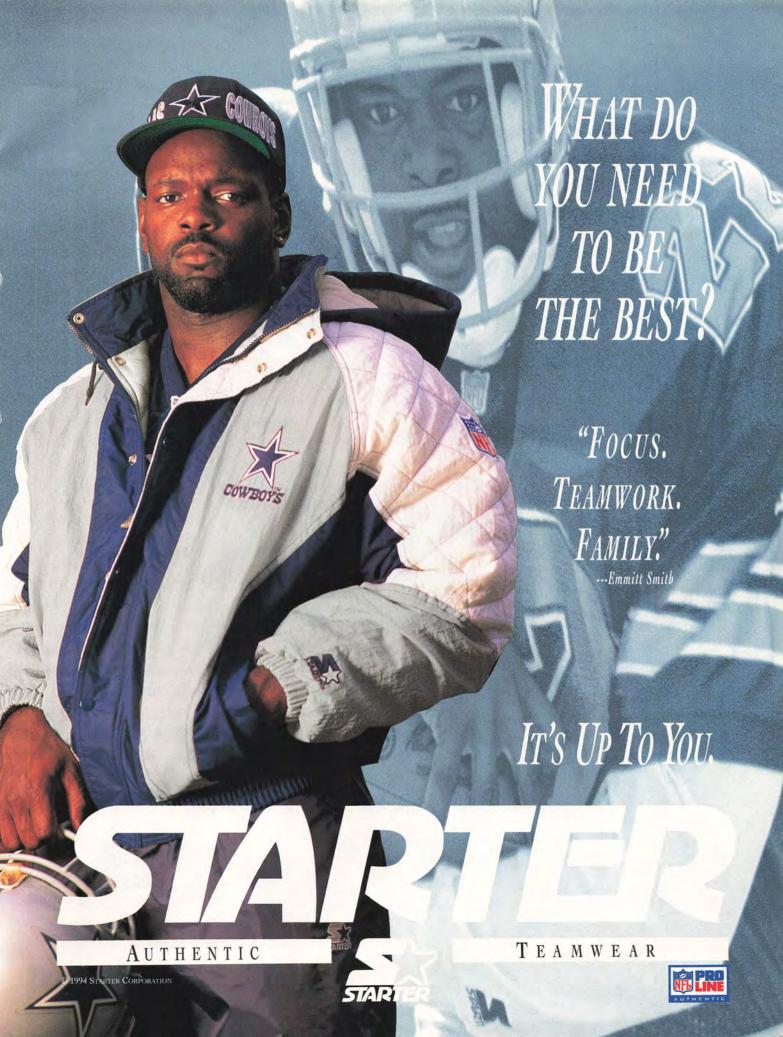
"You're looking at a list of guys that have the potential to blow this league wide open," Smith said. "Foster, Hampton, Green, Warren, Johnson, Cobb, Allen—if he can stay healthy

... Every last one of them has the potential to lead the league in rushing—and a lot of them are just now coming into their own. These guys might be around for a long time."



Player, Drafting Team (Round)	100-Yard Games		
Emmitt Smith, Dallas (1)	25	3	4
Barry Foster, Pittsburgh (5)			
Rodney Hampton, NY Giants (1			
Harold Green, Cincinnati (2)			
Johnny Johnson, Phoenix (7)			
Reggie Cobb, Tampa Bay (2)			
Chris Warren, Seattle (4)			
Terry Allen, Minnesota (9)			
Steve Broussard, Atlanta (1)			
Blair Thomas, NY Jets (1)			
Darrell Thompson, Green Bay (
Dexter Carter, San Francisco (1			
Anthony Thompson, Phoenix (2			
Brian Mitchell, Washington (5)			
Anthony Johnson, Indianapolis			
Leroy Hoard, Cleveland (2)			
Johnny Bailey, Chicago (9)			
Carwell Gardner, Buffalo (2)			
Eddie Fuller, Buffalo (4)			
Larry Centers, Phoenix (5)			
Pat Chaffey, Chicago (5)			
Marcus Wilson, LA Raiders (6).			
David Lang, LA Rams (12)			
+ D'.			

* Did not play in 1993 ** 100-yard receiving games



Game-Breakers

These big-play performers can change a team's momentum in a snap

by DON PIERSON CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In irony of football is the dire need for individuals in the ultimate team sport. The intricacies of 11-on-11 combat inspire clichés about teamwork. Yet to win, fortball teams need stars to stand out. To play the game, teams spend hours of planning and practice, carefully choreographing the assignments at each position. But to win the game, teams require those special players who do things entirely on their own, apart from game plans, things that cannot be programmed or taught. They are the gamebreakers, the difference-makers. "Water moccasins." some scouts call them.

While quarterbacks are vital to any team's chances, the big-play performers make or break the quarterback with a run, catch, interception, or sack that changes the momentum of a game in a snap. They are always poised to strike. Without them, teams simply don't pose much of a threat to each other. Commonly labeled the "skill people," the best of them manage to rise to new levels separate even from their talented colleagues.

How Sterling Sharpe and Tim Brown were able to get open behind defenses to win games last season is one of the great mysteries that makes sports so fascinating. Didn't every player and fan in the stadium know exactly what those players would try to do?

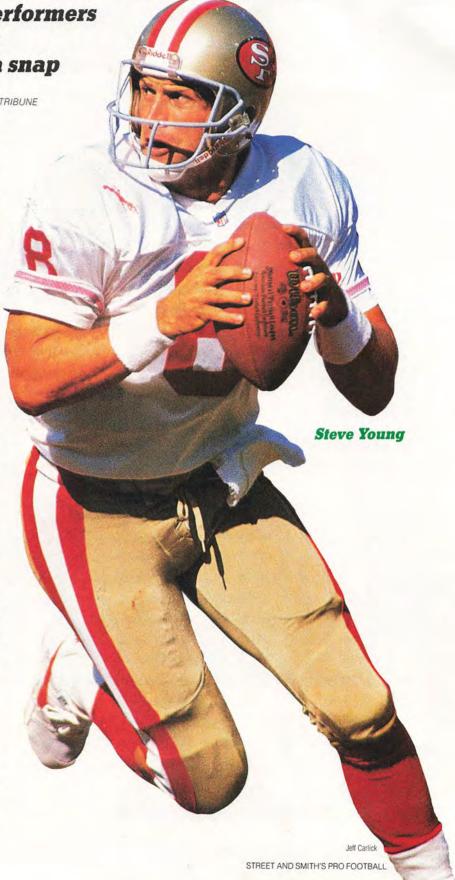
How can Eric Metcalf break not one but two punt returns to beat the Pittsburgh Steelers all by himself?

How did Reggie White stop John Elway's comeback with not one but two consecutive sacks to end a game?

How did Eric Allen return not one but two interceptions for touchdowns to beat the New Orleans Saints?

These are the players who transcend even the high expectations, who reduce the complexities of football to single acts of brilliance. Without them, Super Bowls are no more than pipe dreams. Consider the Cowboys and Bills, annual participants in the showcase event. They are similar organizations, well-crafted and coached. Both have franchise quarterbacks and solid supporting casts. And they both hitch their wagons to their stars, their big-play specialists who manage to turn good football teams into great ones.

The Cowboys thought they had all kinds of superstars in Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin, Alvin Harper. Ken Norton. Kevin Smith, and Charles Haley until Emmitt Smith was absent for a couple of games. Then they realized who the star of stars really was—one spectacular running back who did no more than carry a whole team on his sore shoulder.



The Bills offer evidence of a team with more big-play capability than any other: Jim Kelly, Andre Reed, Thurman Thomas, Bruce Smith, Cornelius Bennett, Darryl Talley. Any of them can turn a game around at any time, positively or negatively—as Thomas learned with a fumble last time.

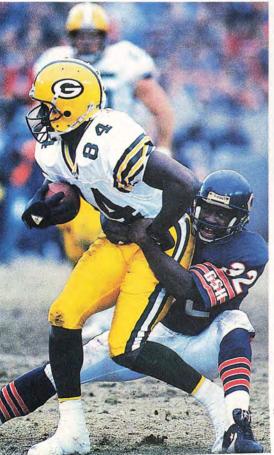
If teams don't have such players, they know they have to try to get them, as Denver coach Wade Phillips said after making Tim Brown an \$11 million offer the Raiders later matched. "The reason we're after Tim Brown is we can't cover him. If you can't cover him, sign him. That's our theory," said Phillips, who accomplished the task later by signing receiver Anthony Miller from the San Diego Chargers to give quarterback John Elway the most accomplished deep threat he has ever had.

Here are the top game-breakers in the NFL today and why they should wear warning labels on their jerseys: "Danger. Explosive."

ERIC METCALF

The Browns' star leads the class of players whose very position could be called "gamebreaker." They are neither runner nor receiver. They are both and more. Only a select few return kickoffs and punts in addition to being the team's go-to guy on third down. Metcalf is the 'best of the bunch, with the Giants' Dave Meggett second. The Cardinals' Johnny Bailey was third last year. Broncos rookie Glyn Milburn and Redskins veteran Brian Mitchell were the only other players in the league with at least 10 rushes, receptions, kickoff returns, and punt returns.

Sterling Sharpe



Metcalf's signature game was against the Steelers last October 24 when he returned a punt 91 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter and another one 75 yards for the come-from-behind game-winning touchdown with 2:05 left. Metcalf said he "felt like Joe Carter," who had hit the home run to win the World Series for the Toronto Blue Jays the night before. "There was little time on the clock, we were down, and we needed a big play." The performance eventually cost Steelers special teams coach John Guy his job. Metcalf finished the season as the top punt returner in the AFC, the team's leading receiver, and the team's No. 2 rusher.

"They create some real matchup problems with him," said Ron Lynn, then the defensive coordinator of the Bengals, now with the Redskins. "If you put a safety or linebacker on him and they split him out, you're committing suicide. But if you put your nickel package in, you're down a run defender. I promise you, we breathe a little sigh of relief when they come out with a group that doesn't include him."

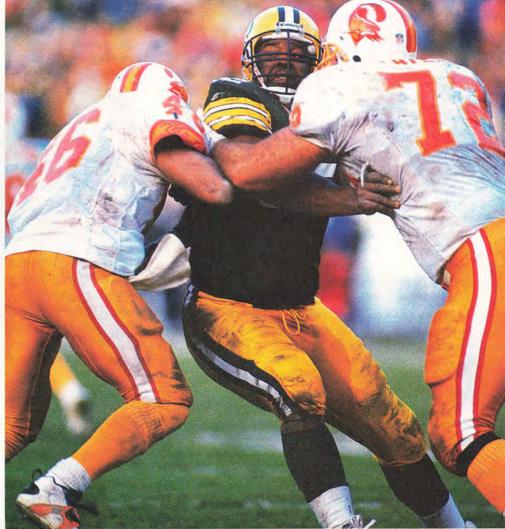
Reggie White

STERLING SHARPE

For two seasons in a row, the Packers' receiver has set NFL records for receptions: 108 in '92, followed by 112 a year ago. Yet in three games last season, Sharpe got wide open to beat teams almost single-handedly, as if he had suddenly rendered himself invisible.

Against the Buccaneers, Sharpe scored four touchdowns among his 10 catches for 147 yards. Three times, he beat a sub cornerback, Roger Jones, who got little help in the Buccaneer scheme that apparently forgot to account for No. 84. More impressive were catches against the Saints and the Lions that helped bring the Packers from behind in the final minute of each game. Against the Saints, Sharpe had left the game because of blurred and double vision. He dropped a pass at the beginning of a late drive with the Packers down 17-16. But with 40 seconds left, there was Sharpe behind the secondary, catching a 54-yard pass from Brett Favre to set up the winning field goal.

"If he was still seeing double, I'm glad he caught the right ball," said Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren.



Sports Photo Masters, Inc.

Game-Breakers

"Don't ask me how Sterling got through the seam. It was a real heart-buster," said Saints cornerback Toi Cook.

Against the Lions in the NFC wild-card round of the playoffs, there was Sharpe again, slipping behind cornerback Kevin Scott with 55 seconds left to catch a 40-yard touchdown pass for a 28-24 victory right in the Pontiac Silverdome.

"I was in shock," Scott said. "I was in awe, stunned. It was so hectic, so loud. I thought I was supposed to bump him and let him go."

ERIC ALLEN

Paul Jasienski

There were 34 players who intercepted four or more passes last season. That's a little more than one per team—select company. Eagles cornerback Eric Allen returned four of his six interceptions for touchdowns. That tied the NFL record set in 1971 by Houston's Ken Houston and matched a year later by Kansas City's Jim Kearney.

For perspective, consider that there were only 36 receivers who scored more touch-downs than Allen last year. His two against the Saints came when he read the eyes of quarterback Steve Walsh on out-patterns, making his sprints to the end zone look easy. The most spectacular came against the Jets on October 3, when Allen weaved 94 yards in the fourth quarter of the Eagles' 35-30 victory. At first, Allen said he considered running out of bounds. "As I looked downfield, I saw some of the Jets almost walking off the field," he explained. "I said, 'Hey, someone has to make the play today.'"

The result not only won the game, it may have saved the career of Randall Cunningham. The Eagles' quarterback was standing near the end zone on crutches after getting knocked out of his second season in three years. He said he was so depressed he had decided to retire until Allen sped toward him and presented him the ball as he crossed the end line. "At that moment, I decided I would come back," Cunningham said.

"It was the greatest interception return I have ever seen under the circumstances," said Philadelphia coach Rich Kotite.

REGGIE WHITE

Tim Brown

Quarterback sacks are dramatic and important, but seldom do they win games the way touchdowns or field goals do. Reggie White's successive sacks against John Elway on October 10 came as close to game-winning plays as a defender can get without touching the ball. With the Packers leading 30-27, Elway had the Broncos poised to win or at least tie in the last 1:30. Already, Elway had come back from a 30-7 deficit and had the ball at the Green Bay 43, only a few yards from a field goal. It was third down and 10 when White blew around tackle Russell Freeman to nail Elway for a loss. On fourth and 18, White chased the mobile Elway for a 14-yard loss.

"Probably the two biggest plays of my life," White admitted.

The Packers had lost three games in a row and were in danger of slipping to 1-4. White's \$17 million contract was weighing him down. He had just one sack before the end.

"He was the better man at this point in time," Freeman said. "Had him man-on-man, one-on-one—best man won."

STEVE YOUNG

Ordinarily, quarterbacks are not included in the game-breaker category. They cause touchdowns but rarely score them. The distinction may be academic, because no team is consistently dangerous without a big-play quarterback. But what puts a quarterback into this game-breaker context is not the usual quarterback skills. Steve Young has led the league in passer rating for three straight years with scores over 100, something predecessor Joe Montana never did. But what makes him a game-breaker is his uncanny ability to run.

Several quarterbacks can win games by themselves by throwing touchdown passes. The Chiefs' Montana heads the list and showed the Oilers he can still do it in the playoffs. Young strikes fear in defenses on every play because of his running threat as well as his ability to direct the 49ers' vaunted passing attack. In his two full years as a starter, Young has thrown 54 touchdown passes. More impressive are his averages. His yards per pass attempt (not pass completion) were 8.62 in 1992, 8.71 in '93. Nobody else reached 8.0 in either year. Moreover, Young's rushing average was 7.1 yards in 1992, 5.9 yards in '93. And he has run the ball more than any other quarterback. Only Philadelphia's Cunningham has similar running skills. Only Denver's Elway has similar scrambling skills. On the horizon, only Seattle's Rick Mirer looks comparable to Young. Former Minnesota coach

Jerry Burns had nightmares for years after Young's incredible 49-yard touchdown run with 1:58 left beat the Vikings in 1988.

TIM BROWN

It took the addition of quarterback Jeff Hostetler for the Raiders to discover Tim Brown is actually twice as good as they thought. He caught 80 passes last year, 31 more than the year before and for nearly twice the yards.

On December 5 against the Bills in Rich Stadium, Brown had caught eight passes for 146 yards late in the fourth quarter, surely enough warning for the Bills to pay attention to him as they protected their 24-19 lead. Yet there he was,

making his ninth catch for a 29-yard touchdown with 4:58 to play, giving the Raiders the victory. He finished with 10 receptions for 183 yards.

"We used a lot of different coverages on him, but Brown is a heck of a player," Bills coach Marv Levy said.

Of all the great wide receivers in the NFL, only Brown also returns punts. The 49ers' John Taylor stopped doing it two years ago.

After the Raiders matched the Broncos' offer sheet for Brown, Raiders boss Al Davis said, "They can't beat us on or off the field."

EMMITT SMITH

His MVP season reached a crescendo against the Giants on January 2 when Emmitt Smith continued to play after suffering a separated right shoulder. Why did he keep playing? Simple. The Cowboys needed him to win



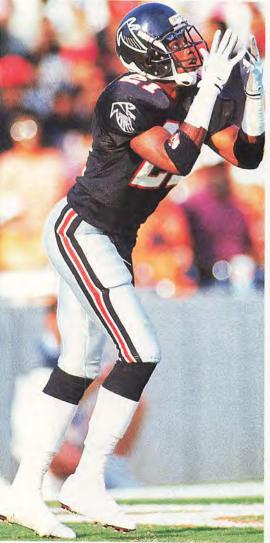
STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL



Game-Breakers

so they could gain the playoff bye and give him the next week off. If he had rested, the Cowboys were afraid they would lose and Smith would have to come back the following week against the Vikings in the playoffs. Smith ran for 168 yards and caught 10 passes despite suffering his injury late in the first half. The Cowboys won on a field goal in overtime after Smith accounted for 40 of the 52 yards Dallas gained to set up the kick.

"I talked to him two or three times and he said, 'No, I want to finish this. I want to be the guy. Let me play until I can't play anymore,' " coach Jimmy Johnson said.



Michael Ponzini

Deion Sanders

Smith's value to the Cowboys became apparent when they lost their first two games while Smith was embroiled in a contract negotiation. His value grew all season, peaked in New York, and was capped off with an MVP performance in the Super Bowl. After winning his third consecutive rushing title, Smith celebrated his year by undergoing surgery on his shoulder. Looking back over his shoulder, Smith merely established himself as the best

player in football. "A year never ever to be forgotten by myself," Smith admitted.

"The best north-south runner I've ever seen," Johnson said.

JERRY RICE

Three more touchdowns and Jerry Rice will pass Jim Brown for the top spot in football history. For Rice, that could come in one game. The Buccaneers know. He scored four against them last November 14. Three years ago, he scored five against the Falcons. Brown scored 126 in nine years. Walter Payton scored 125 in 13 years. Rice has scored 124 in nine years and shows no signs of slowing down.

"He's a freak," said Tampa Bay defensive coordinator Floyd Peters. "Most people are blessed with speed, a little bit of height, athleticism, or great hands. But they won't have it all. These guys come down the pike once in a while, like the Jim Browns and other greats."

ROD WOODSON

Game 1 vs. the 49ers, Steelers cornerback Rod Woodson had two interceptions, eight tackles, and blocked a field goal. Game 2 vs. the Rams, Woodson had an interception, a sack, and a forced fumble. Game 3 vs. the Bengals, Woodson returned four punts for 54 yards. Game 4 vs. the Falcons, Woodson had two interceptions on Atlanta's final two drives, two punt returns for 42 yards, two kickoff returns for 62 yards, five solo tackles, and played his first down ever at wide receiver. Need more? Game 6 vs. the Saints, Woodson intercepted Wade Wilson's first pass and returned it 63 yards for a touchdown, and intercepted his fourth pass to set up another touchdown. The sign in Three Rivers Stadium: "Rod is God

"I don't particularly care for guys who try to make big hits or big tackles," said Saints linebacker Rickey Jackson. "That ain't football. Woodson goes for the ball and he tries to create things for his team to get an advantage. The money they give him is well-deserved."

DEION SANDERS

Like Woodson, the Falcons' Deion Sanders is limited only by the number of times he gets the ball. Rivals are grateful the Steelers and the Falcons don't play these guys both ways. The Falcons used cornerback Sanders as a receiver more last season and he caught six passes for 106 yards, including a 70-yard touchdown against Dallas. In the past five seasons, the last two part-time because of baseball, Sanders has touched the football 275 times on interceptions, punt returns, kick-off returns, rushes, and receptions. His average per touch: 17.7 yards.

The Falcons were 0-4 until Sanders arrived from the Braves. They were 6-5 with him. Somehow, new coach June Jones would like to find a way to get Sanders more involved.

ANDRE RISON

As long as Andre Rison propels the Falcons on offense, Jones may not need Sanders to run or catch. Overshadowed by Rice and Sharpe, Rison takes a back seat to neither in big-play capability. He has set the NFL record for most catches in his first three, four, and five seasons. He is one behind Rice in touchdown catches over the last three years and shared the league lead with him at 15 last season.

Rison arrived in Atlanta in 1990 in the trade with Indianapolis for the rights to quarterback Jeff George. Now the Falcons have both players and every expectation that Jones and his run-and-shoot attack will reach new heights.

JEROME BETTIS

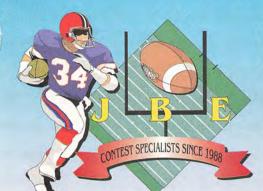
Detroit's Barry Sanders gained 1,548 yards and scored 16 touchdowns in 1991, 1,352 yards and nine touchdowns in '92, and 1,115 yards and three TDs last season. Is he in decline? Rivals hope so, but his 169-yard performance against the Packers in a playoff loss following a five-game absence with a knee injury is evidence to the contrary.

Still, football seeks new names and Jerome Bettis is the brightest. The Rams' rookie chased Emmitt Smith for the rushing title and carried a team that won only five games. At 5-11 and 245 pounds, Bettis was a classic banger, but his average of 4.9 yards per carry was third to only Smith and Houston's Gary Brown. Bettis recorded seven 100-yard games, including a 212-yard performance December 12 against New Orleans that featured a 71-yard touchdown dash around end.

"It was amazing," said Saints linebacker Sam Mills. "I don't even expect a Hall of Famer to play like that against our defense."

Over the last seven games, Bettis averaged 8.8 yards on the 36 sweeps Los Angeles ran.





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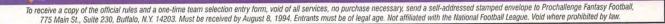
FIRST UPDATE BY SEPT.21. Each month you will receive a package including your player selections, total points, contest ranking, injury reports, Playoff info and trade updates. IMPORTANT: Your first package will also include trading hotline access #, trading details and complete contest rules.

■ Trade Your Players and Receive Updates (NOT A 1-900 LINE.) Trading Players/Updates starts Thursday Sept. 22. You can make 7 trades replacing up to 3 players each trade (6 Regular Season/1 Playoffs). A traded player must be replaced by another player from the same box (A-J).

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F SEL	ECT ONE (1) PLAYER	FROM EACH OF THE	10 BOXES. LAST YEA	AR'S POINTS INDICAT	ED.
All players will accumulate points based on the following OFFENCE 10 yds rushing 1pt 10 yds passing 1pt 10 yds receiving 1pt	A Quarterbacks A1 W. Moon, MIN 472 A2 J. Kelly, BUF 438 A3 J. Elway, DEN 543 A4 S. Young, S.F. 597 A5 D. Marino, MIA 166 A6 B. Favre, G.B. 451 A7 T. Aikman, DAL 397 A8 R. Cunningham, PHI 126	B Quarterbacks B1 C. Erickson, T.B. 404 B2 S. Beuerlein. PHO 400 B3 P Simms, NYG 381 B4 N. O'Donnell, PIT 401 B5 J. Hostetler, RAI 392 B6 R. Mirer, SEA 392 B7 B. Hebert, U/S 421 B8 B. Esiason, NYJ 438	C Runningbacks ☐ C1 T. Thomas, BUF 199 ☐ C2 B. Sanders, DET 146 ☐ C3 E. Smith, DAL 239 ☐ C4 J. Bettis, LAR 201 ☐ C5 R. Watters, S.F. 185 ☐ C6 B. Foster, PIT 137 ☐ C7 M. Allen, K.C. 174 ☐ C8 L. Russell, N.E. 167	D Runningbacks D1 C. Warren, SEA 151 D2 R. Hampton, NYG 153 D3 E. Pegram, ATL 163 D4 G. Brown, HOU 164 D5 T. Kirby, MIA 156 D6 R. Brooks, WAS 139 D7 R. Moore, PHO 147 D8 E. Bennett, G.B. 150	E Receivers E1 S. Sharpe, G.B. 182 E2 A. Miller, S.D. 151 E3 A. Rison, ATL 199 E4 J. Rice, S.F. 236 E5 M. Irvin, DAL 168 E6 T. Brown, RAI 158 E7 A. Reed, BUF 117 E8 C. Carter, MIN 152
TD's 5pts Converts 1pt Field goals 3pts DEFENCE Full sack 10pts ½ sack 5pts Interception 10pts Int./TD 20pts	F Receivers F1 W. Davis, K.C. 125 F2 J. Taylor, S.F. 120 F3 H. Moore, DET 123 F4 R. Langhorne, IND 118 F5 I. Fryar, MIA 126 F6 E. Givins, HOU 109 F7 M. Jackson, CLE 115 F8 R. Proehl, PHO 126	G Receivers G1 W. Slaughter, HOU 115 G2 C. Williams, PHI 122 G3 B. Brooks, BUF 99 G4 M. Ingram, MIA 107 G5 E. Martin, N.O. 110 G6 A. Harper, DAL 102 G7 H. Jeffries, HOU 105 G8 C. Hawkins, T.B. 108	H Kickers	11 S. Fletcher, DEN	□ J1 E. Allen, PHI 110 □ J2 N. Odomes, BUF 90 □ J3 E. Robinson, SEA 110 □ J4 R. Woodson, PIT 110 □ J5 M. Robertson, HOU 70 □ J6 B. Washington, NYJ 70 □ J7 L. Butler, G.B. 70 □ J8 K. Smith, DAL 70
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FOOTBALL'S BEST

erry Rice doesn't want to be all alone in the end zone, so he brings the football. His touchdown fetish is second only to Jim Brown's, but with three more scores, Rice will have had more opportunities to spike than any man in pro football history.

One problem: He's anti-spike.

"I recall doing it a long time ago at Philadelphia," admitted Rice. "A defensive back had ticked me off—he had talked so much trash at me—and we'd gotten into it. I scored on him and then turned around and spiked the ball in his face, and that was the last time I did that. It

was just that I thought about it and I said to myself, "Well, Jerry, when you cross the goal line, you have achieved what you wanted. For one thing, you have made yourself happy and done something to the defensive back, so why spike the ball in his face? You don't need to do that.'"



Rice is civilized (even irons his jeans), aerodynamic (primps in front of the mirror in full uniform before every game), and is still the San Francisco 49ers' most frequent nonstop flight to the end zone. He turns 32 in October. but he remains in a league by himself. Michael Irvin has won two straight Super Bowls, but Rice has been there, done that. Sterling Sharpe just caught 100 passes for the second year in a row, but Rice lets teammate John Taylor catch his share. And Andre Rison has had nothing back-to-back-except losing seasons. Nevertheless, they all talk behind Rice's back. Irvin, after an early victory over the 49ers last season, declared himself "King of the wideouts."

"You know, I have never said I was the greatest," Rice said. "Michael is a great receiver, a big receiver who's not afraid to go across the middle to make the catch and

the big play. But you've got so many great receivers now. Yet somehow I'm always being compared to them. It's so weird, but they had started to count me out, man. I got really frustrated behind that. I've been around so long, but I don't think

my production had dropped. But the media had started saying other guys were better than me, and that surprised me. It really did. Hey, I'm still catching the ball, still making plays, still getting to the end zone, but you'll never hear me say that I'm the best, guys."

Actually, at midseason last year, Rice was doing a lot of crying for the football. It wasn't his fault; it was his quarterback's. Steve Young had cracked a throwing finger in the preseason, returned gingerly, and forgot to look for Rice first. "It's always gonna be up to my quarterback," Rice said, laughing. This was about the time when Irvin did his wise-cracking.

"It's a lot of fun," admitted Rice, alluding to the rivalry among the receivers, "because when you look at the newspaper, look at the stats every week during the season, look at how many balls Irvin caught, how many balls Rison and Sharpe caught, you get pissed off. I'm sure they feel the same way about me

when I have a great game. That's just being competitive, trying to be the best at what you do. But we couldn't play as a group, on the same team. Oh, man, we would be fighting because every-body would be complaining, 'I want the ball.'

"At the Pro Bowl two years ago, Michael Irvin was prancing up and down the sidelines and saying, 'Give me the ball. I'm the man. I led the league in receptions and yardage. Give me the goddamn ball.' On the other side, you had Gary Clark saying, 'I'm this wide open.' (You know, as a receiver, you're always open.) And you had Rison. It was so hilarious. I said to myself, 'There's no way we could play on the same team.' "

King of the wideouts? By the end of last season, Irvin was dethroned. Rice was not only runner-up to Emmitt Smith for the NFC Most Valuable Player Award, but with 124 touchdowns, he was creeping up on Jim

Brown's all-time record (126).

What turned it around? Young's passes stung more than Joe Montana's, but Rice decided to start catching them anyway. Their quarterback/receiver relationship evolved from indif-

ference, to polite, to sharing chips and salsa, to touchdowns almost every other possession. Rice always preferred Montana over Young (he has Montana's phone number in Kansas City memorized), but Rice and Young began bonding last season.

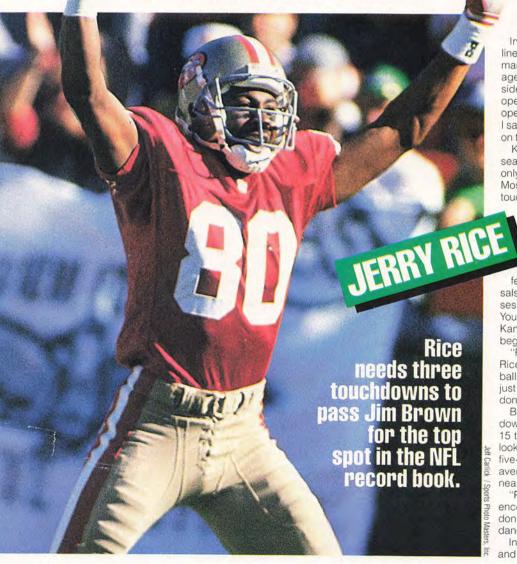
"For one, we'd go to this little restaurant," Rice said. "We'd watch Monday Night Football after practice and have a few beers and just talk and relax. The weirdest thing is, we don't talk football when we go out."

Before long, what went up had to come down in Rice's long fingers. He finished with 15 touchdown receptions after Young started looking for him again on slant patterns. In a five-game stretch late in the year, the 49ers averaged 38 points and 448.4 yards and Rice

nearly tripled Irvin's yardage (618-209).

"People don't like me," Rice said, in reference to endorsements. "I guess because I don't have an air about myself. I don't have a dance in the end zone."

In other words, it might be time to wind up and spike one.



ohn Elway is a player willing to give more than a quarter back. The Denver Broncos were hovering near the limit of their salary cap when Elway volunteered to take a pay cut so that the team could sign a speedy wide receiver.

On the other hand, it was about time he did the team a favor. The Broncos, over the last 36 months, have gone out of their way to accommodate Elway. He and former Denver coach Dan Reeves could only agree that they disagreed in 1992, and the quarterback let owner Pat Bowlen know it was either Elway or the highway. Reeves was fired. Needing a new head coach—and a happy quarterback—Bowlen first offered the job to Elway's great good friend, Mike Shanahan, who declined, and then to another Elway sympathizer, Wade Phillips, the Broncos' defensive coordinator, who accepted. One

way's old Stanford quarterback coach, Jim Fassel, who imported Bill Walsh's offense and allowed Elway to do something Reeves used to snarl at: throw on first down.

of Phillips's first moves was to hire El-

"Yep, we just let him throw more," Phillips said. "Listen, when I took over, I just looked at it and said, 'What's our No. 1 asset?' Obviously, John Elway. So I said, 'How can we make him flourish?' Wasn't hard to think of throwing on first down. The average fan would've thought of that."

The red carpet kept unrolling. Right before the first snap of the 1993 season, the Broncos acquired a behemoth tackle, Gary Zimmerman, from Minnesota. A new offense, and pass protection, too? Elway was so overwhelmed, he made a bet with a Denver writer, Joe Sanchez, that he'd complete 60 percent of his passes. He ended up completing over 63 percent for 4,030 yards and 25 touchowns.

"For the last three or four years, a lot of critics said I was overrated—I couldn't throw the touch pass, I couldn't . . . right on down the line," Elway said. "I thought it was a bad rap because I didn't have an opportunity to do those things. All of a sudden, last year, I had a chance to do those things again."

For all of his impressive stats, Elway saw his season end with a playoff loss to the Raiders in L.A., which sent Bowlen back to the drawing board. What else, he wondered, can I do for big John? He drew up this list:

- 1. Tim Brown
- 2. Anthony Miller
- 3. Haywood Jeffires

"See, it was the last essential part of the offense we hadn't addressed: One more impact wide receiver would fill it out," Bowlen explained.

So, first they offered most of the western world to Brown, a restricted free agent, but the Raiders matched that offer and retained his services. Then they offered most of the eastern world to Miller, and the Chargers, gulping, did not match it. Miller was Denver's. And if the Chargers had matched it, the Broncos would have used their bank card for Houston's Jeffires. Now, as the 1994 season unfolds, Elway has Shannon Sharpe inside, Miller outside, and a legitimate opportunity to win a Super Bowl ring.

Why are these people so good to Elway? It's not as though his three Super Bowl defeats haunt him. Buffalo spared him from that. Now that the Bills have lost four straight Bowls, no one sits on bar stools discussing Elway's failures. No one laughs at him the way they laugh at Jim ("I'm going to EuroDisney") Kelly. Still, there must be a reason why the Broncos fire coaches just for him, sign wide receivers just for him.

heroics make grown men overexcitable. Now that there's a two-point confor him. version, no eight-point "We are so lucky to have him," JOHN ELWAY **With Shannon** Sharpe inside and Anthony Miller outside, Elway has an opportunity to win a Super Bowl ring.

said Phillips, "lucky that our superstar's a good guy, too. I mean, when we had those wide receivers in, he came down and ate lunch with them, which is a way of recruiting guys. He went out of his way to meet them, and—I'm telling you—you easily could have a quarterback who doesn't do that. And another thing, he works so hard in our offseason program. We can always call our other players in and say, 'Hey, John Elway's here, how come you're not?' "

lead will be safe from him. Like all great competitors, Elway is at his best under pressure. At times, he even provides comic relief.

The community's lucky to have him. too.

considering he was voted the NFL Man of the Year in 1992 for raising more than \$1.2 million

for the prevention and treatment of child

abuse. One agency apparently made more

money from Elway than from the state of Colo-

rado. Meanwhile, the community doesn't hold

it against him that his late-game

"One time last year," recalled Phillips, "he came off the field right before the half and I'm telling him, 'Fifteen seconds left,' and another coach is screaming. 'Don't get sacked,' and a third's hollering, 'Throw deep,' and another, 'No time-outs left,' and finally John says, "Well, that's all well and good, but does any-body have a play? I know all that other stuff.'"

FOOTBALL'S BEST

by RUSSELL S. BAXTER

ESPN

uring the last five or so years, defensive football in the NFL has evolved into a game of situational substitution. With the many new offensive wrinkles introduced around the league, defensive coaches have countered with various looks—packages that call for anywhere from three to five linemen, one to four linebackers, and five to seven backs. But in this age of specialization, Seth Joyner is special. Instead of being replaced on passing downs, he was an important part of Philadelphia's nickel coverages.

"Seth Joyner can do anything you ask of him," said Eagles defensive coordinator Bud

Carson. "We ask him to do it all."

At least they used to. After eight years in Philadelphia, playing under two of the premier defensive minds in the game in head coach Buddy Ryan for the first five and Carson for the last three, Joyner signed a five-year, \$14.45 million contract in April with Arizona. There he will be reunited with new Cardinals coach Ryan as well as with former teammate Clyde Simmons.

About the styles of his two mentors, Joyner noted, "At certain times, Bud's a little more guarded. He's gonna sit back and try to catch you off balance. With Buddy, we're gonna put the quarterback out. We're going to go after [him] and ... Buddy doesn't care if you know he's coming or not."

Ryan's up-front approach, both on and off the field, is something that appeals to his once and future pupil. "More than anything, guys want that honesty," said Joyner, after signing

with the Cardinals. "He's going to bring a team together. When you get that, guys will lay it on the line for you."

The line on Joyner: He is the NFL's most versatile linebacker and one of its most consistent performers, with 17 career interceptions, including at least one every year, and 100 or more tackles in each of his last six seasons. An eighth-round draft choice (UTEP)

Jovner is the NFL's most

versatile linebacker

and one of its most

consistent

performers.

by the Eagles in 1986, he first gained some recognition three years ago. In a late-season upset victory at Houston, Joyner put on an incredible show in front of a Monday night audience, recording eight tackles, forcing two fumbles and recovering two others, and sacking Warren Moon twice. He finished that season with 110 tackles, 6½ sacks, three interceptions, a half-dozen forced fumbles, and four fumble recoveries. It earned him his first Pro Bowl invitation.

Hard work has obviously paid off for the defensive stalwart, who can become defensive about the cerebral effort that goes into his game preparation.

"I put a lot of time into studying film and what our opponent is trying to do," he explained.

When a defense is called, I can tell you where all 11 players on the field are supposed to be and what their responsibilities are. I think my intelligence, along with my ability, is what's gotten me to the point where I am.

"There's a lot of work during the offseason. It's not just a matter of lifting weights and running and then being physical. It's a very mental game, and a lot is required of a football player, particularly to be able to execute exactly what it is the coaches

want to run. I've been required to play so many defenses, there's almost nothing that I haven't seen. And in order to get a good grasp on all of this, you have to study."

While the opinionated Joyner takes pride in his abilities, he doesn't mind that defenses have had to become a bit more specialized and sophisticated.

ning the ball in obvious running situations.

"I think it's good for the game. Everybody's talking about wanting to limit the number of substitutions. If that's the case, you could just line up in a two-back set on every down, get in a eightman front to stop them from run-

In passing situations, you just double their best wide receiver

and hope the other guys can cover. For that, you have a very dull game.

"When you're allowed to bring in nickel coverort-yardage and goal-line packme is more diversified. You have

ages and short-yardage and goal-line packages, the game is more diversified. You have to prepare for more, which means offensive and defensive coordinators can be a little more strategic and players have to be a little smarter to play the game."

TH JOYN

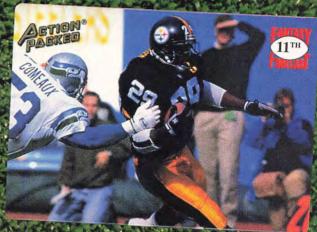
So while the NFL has been trying to find ways to put more points on the board, Joyner thinks it should not try to fix what's not broken.

"There have been so many changes in the game to give the offense the advantage, and obviously they want excitement to keep people in the seats. But there are a lot of fans who enjoy good defensive football."

And a good defensive football player.

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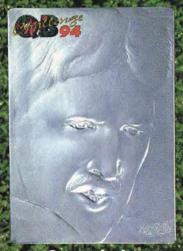
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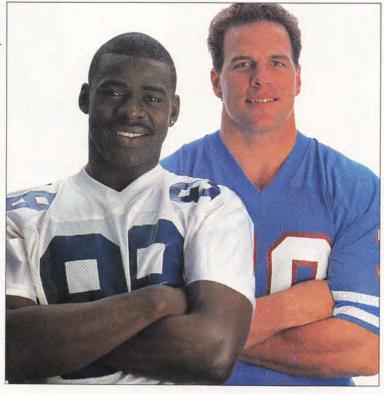


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FOOTBALL'S BEST

ast season, Rod Woodson had a career-high eight interceptions and was elected to a fifth straight Pro Bowl. The Pittsburgh Steelers' MVP, he was also named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year-the first defensive back since Seattle's Kenny Easley in 1984 to earn that honor. So how would he assess his exceptional '93 season?

"I think I played well the first seven games," the 6-2, 200-pound Woodson said, "but toward the end. I just didn't make the plays. Maybe I went back to being average. I was kind of disappointed in my play."

Such is the attitude of the unsatisfied Woodson, 29, who obviously isn't ready to rest on his laurels. Early in his career, the Steelers' first-round choice, out of Purdue, in the 1987 draft was arguably better known as one of the league's top athletes rather than one of its outstanding defenders. But since the arrival two years ago of head coach Bill Cowher and defensive coordinator Dom Capers (as well as defensive backs coach Dick LeBeau), Woodson has made 195 tackles, 12 interceptions, a half-dozen forced fumbles, and eight sacks and blossomed into one of the league's premier players. In Pittsburgh's opening game in 1992 at Houston, Woodson, playing with a partially torn calf muscle, showed what has become commonplace for him in the last two seasons. On the fourth play from scrimmage, he outfoxed Oilers wideout Ernest Givins and grabbed Warren Moon's third pass. In the fourth quarter, with his team trailing 24-22 and the Oilers inside the Steelers' 5-yard line, Woodson stopped running back Lorenzo White for no gain. On the next play, he grabbed an errant pass from a pressured Moon, ducked under the arm of receiver Haywood Jeffires, and raced 57 yards to set up a touchdown in Pittsburgh's improbable 29-24 victory.

"When Bill came in, he moved me from the right corner to the left. And since most teams are right-handed, that involved me more in the game plan," explained Woodson. "It also made me concentrate better. When we back into the nickel [coverage] or when the dime comes onto the field, that gets me a little closer to the football, a little more into the action, and I'm able to make more plays.

What an understatement. Last fall, in a meeting with the 5-0 Saints, Woodson set the tone early for what would be New Orleans's first loss. He picked off a deflected pass in the first quarter and returned it 63 yards for a touchdown; minutes later he made a diving interception to set up another score as the Steelers rolled to a resounding 37-14 victory.

Later in the season, in a crucial Monday night tilt at Miami, Woodson struck again. Near the end of the first half, Dolphins running back Terry Kirby took a short pass from quarterback Steve DeBerg, broke a couple of tackles, and headed for a 53-yard touchdown. But Woodson appeared out of nowhere to overtake the rookie and strip him of the ball, which Steeler teammate Carnell Lake recovered at the 2-yard line. Later, with under 15 seconds to play, Woodson picked off a DeBerg pass to preserve Pittsburgh's 21-20 triumph.

Taking away the football has been a big part of the Pittsburgh success story under season games, the Steelers have 81 takeaways, with 65 coming in 20 victories. "It's really ingrained from day one in our first minicamp, and it's something we practice every day," said Woodson, who had 13 of those takeaways. "We practice stripping the ball, we practice going for the ball. You look at the good defenses that play well year in and year out, they're getting the turnovers. Our main objective is to be the lowest-scoring defense in the league and, after that, to have a better margin of turnovers. If we can do that, we're going to produce some wins.

While Woodson speaks modestly of his own talents, it doesn't stop others from singing his praises. One of his big-

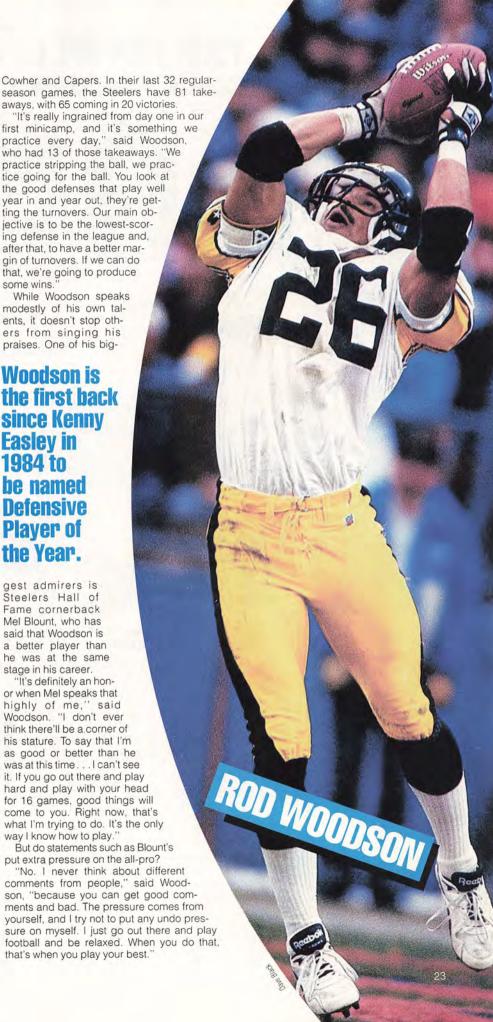
Woodson is the first back since Kenny Easley in 1984 to be named **Defensive** Player of the Year.

gest admirers is Steelers Hall of Fame cornerback Mel Blount, who has said that Woodson is a better player than he was at the same stage in his career.

"It's definitely an honor when Mel speaks that highly of me," said Woodson. "I don't ever think there'll be a corner of his stature. To say that I'm as good or better than he was at this time . . . I can't see it. If you go out there and play hard and play with your head for 16 games, good things will come to you. Right now, that's what I'm trying to do. It's the only way I know how to play."

But do statements such as Blount's put extra pressure on the all-pro?

"No. I never think about different comments from people," said Woodson, "because you can get good comments and bad. The pressure comes from yourself, and I try not to put any undo pressure on myself. I just go out there and play football and be relaxed. When you do that, that's when you play your best.



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Back Track

The Dallas
Cowboys'
Emmitt Smith
is in a league
of his own.

by TIM COWLISHAW

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

With the 8,800 yards he gained in high school, with the national records he set while at the University of Florida, with his back-to-back NFL rushing titles and Super Bowl ring he had earned by the age of 23, Emmitt Smith had done it all. Or so it seemed.

Certainly there were no indications that all he had accomplished in his first three professional seasons were going to pale in comparison to what would take place in 1993. Smith had broken Tony Dorsett's team record by running for 1,713 yards in 1992 and became the first NFL rushing champion to compete in a Super Bowl. He was the first player to win back-to-back rushing titles since Eric Dickerson in 1983-84, the first to rush for 1,500 yards in consecutive seasons since Walter Payton in 1984-85. The list went on and on.

Then came the '93 season, when Smith proved that there is one level of great NFL backs that includes Detroit's Barry Sanders and Buffalo's Thurman Thomas and another level, slightly higher, where he resides. A contract dispute with team owner Jerry Jones led Smith to miss the first two games of the '93 season (against Washington and Buffalo), both of which the Cowboys lost. On September 16, Jones signed Smith to a four-year, \$13.6 million contract that made him the highest paid running back in NFL history. The pact included \$6 million up front. Three months later, Jones would recognize that he had gotten an incredible bargain.

Smith didn't play until the second half of Dallas's third game, in Phoenix, but he showed some familiar footwork in rushing eight times for 45 yards. Criticized by the coaches for not being in better shape the next week, Smith ran 13 times for 71 yards against Green Bay. The season was one quarter old and Smith had 116 rushing yards. His vow to do everything possible to win a third straight rushing title sounded hollow. But in Game 7, Smith danced in the Philadelphia rain for 237 yards, breaking another Dorsett team record by 31 yards. It gave the Cowboys their fifth straight victory and elevated him from 17th to

continued on page 28

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Back on Track

sixth in the rushing race, 241 yards behind Sanders. "I still think have a chance," said Smith at the time, "If anyone's going to do it, it's going to be me."

But there would

but there would be more obstacles. After carrying just once in Atlanta for one yard on November 21, he left the game with a pulled quadriceps muscle. Forced to play again just four days later because of the Cowboys' tradi-

tional Thanksgiving game, Smith ran 16 times for 51 yards in the snow in a strange loss to Miami. With five games left, Smith trailed Sanders by 317 yards. Sanders, however, got hurt and Smith started climbing. Another huge game against Philadelphia, for 172 yards, put Smith back on track. He gained 104 yards against Minnesota, 91 against the New York Jets, and 153 against Washington to trail Jerome Bettis of the Rams by 35 yards going into the season finale. Bettis, the outstanding rookie from Notre Dame, had two advantages. One, he was playing in a late game against Chicago and thus would know before taking the field how many yards Smith had gained in his final effort. Two, L.A. was playing a meaningless game while Dallas was competing for the NFC East title against New York in Giants Stadium. The Cowboys had to focus on winning the game, not a rushing crown.

As it turned out, those two happened to be one and the same. Smith again defied the odds by doing something no one had ever seen. Tackled after a long open-field run by Greg Jackson, Smith separated his left shoulder as he slammed into the turf. That could have been the end of his season, and it could have meant a wild-card route for Dallas.

"I told him to pack it in," Cowboys running backs coach Joe Brodsky said. "Jimmy [Johnson] didn't want him in there either. But that's Emmitt. He's a little foolhardy, but he loves to compete."

Smith finished with 32 carries for 168 yards. He carried the ball 13 times after separating his shoulder. He inspired John Madden to leave the broadcast booth and congratulate him in the locker room after the remarkable performance. In addition to all that it did for Dallas in paving the road toward a second straight Super Bowl, the effort allowed Smith to beat Bettis by 57 yards to win a third straight rushing title, something only Jim Brown, Earl Campbell, and Steve Van Buren ever did. Even after winning the Super Bowl and earning the Most Valuable Player award in that game to go with his regular season MVP honor, it was the game against the Giants that was still being talked about.

"I can't describe it. You'd have to be in my shoes to know what I was going through," Smith said. "I can't say I wouldn't go through it again. In the same circumstances, I'd probably try to play the game again."

It was that kind of effort that allowed Smith to overcome missing the first two games and still enjoy his best year ever. "Winning the Super Bowl made the whole season worthwhile," he said. "It would have been disappointing to gain all the yards, to win my third rushing title, to be the MVP, to get the Pro Bowl honors again, and not win it all. The Super Bowl makes my whole season complete. Really, it was a miracle season."

ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

In his five seasons as the Cowboys' head coach, Jimmy Johnson hated to hear the word "luck." Occasionally, he would acknowledge that some turn of events had been "fortunate" for the Cowboys. Lucky? Never. Johnson engineered more than 50 trades, but it was a series of moves he failed to make that led to one that put Smith on the Cowboys' roster. For Johnson and Dallas, those failures must now be regarded as most fortunate.

After the 1-15 misery of 1989, Johnson insisted he would focus on defense in the draft. The Cowboys did not have the first overall pick because of their selection of Steve Walsh in the 1989 supplemental draft. But they were well-stocked with picks in the early rounds thanks to the deal that sent Herschel Walker to Minnesota. The Cowboys' target was Baylor linebacker James Francis. After him, they liked North Carolina State defensive end Ray Agnew and Houston linebacker Lamar Lathon. Anything to lend a presence and some pass rush to the defensive front was the primary goal.

Johnson failed in repeated attempts to trade up. Had Francis lasted until the 13th slot, the Cowboys would have traded the 21st pick and later choices to Kansas City. Instead, Francis went 12th to Cincinnati. So the Cowboys sat back and waited. After 16 picks had been made, Johnson called Pittsburgh and made a deal. The Steelers would get the Cowboys' No. 1 (the 21st selection) and a third-round choice obtained from San Francisco, picks that Pittsburgh would use on tight end Eric Green and defensive tackle Craig Veasey. The Cowboys (who had traded for running back Terrence Flagler the previous week) would take a player they never dreamed would still be available by the 17th pick: Emmitt Smith.

Miami had played Florida in 1987, when Smith was a freshman. So Johnson, the Hurricanes' coach at the time, knew firsthand that Smith's 5-10, 195-pound frame and 4.6 speed, however unremarkable in the computer printouts, were more impressive on the field when he was breaking tackles. Still, Brodsky, who had held a personal workout with Smith, admitted he did not envision that the Cowboys were selecting a three-time rushing champion.

"Of course not. I'm no genius," Brodsky said. "But if you [could] look past the size, look past the fact that he's not as fast running straight down a track as you'd like a guy to be

if he's going to take you to a Super Bowl...If you could do that, you'd see a complete football player with magnificent strength in his size and hips. I don't see the vision that he says he has because he says he sees sideline to sideline. That's hard. But he has never done anything other than win and be productive."

Smith arrived in Dallas at a time when the team's fans were starved for new heroes. (They had Troy Aikman, but he was coming off a battered and bruised rookie season in which the club was 0-11 in his starts.) There were instant comparisons to Dorsett because of similarities in size—even if Dorsett was faster and Smith was stronger—and huge college rushing totals. Smith was confident but humble. "I have high goals," he said. "I want to be the running back Dallas wants me to be."

Four years later. Smith has reached the end zone 53 times in the regular season. Only San Francisco's Jerry Rice has been there more often (54). Over the last three years, Smith leads the NFL in scoring and leads the league in rushing by more than 500 yards. His 5.3vard average in 1993 was the highest for a league leader since Dickerson's 5.6 in 1984 and the second-highest in 15 years. Dorsett has all but acknowledged that on the Cowboys' list of great running backs, he ranks No. 2. "He'll not only break my records, but a lot of records in the NFL," said Dorsett. "The only one of my records he can't get is the longest run: the 99-yarder. I know he won't break it. But he sure might tie it."

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Then there's the future. At age 24, when most people are trying to determine if their college major was really such a good idea, Smith sits atop the NFL rushing world. Since leaving Florida a year early, he has run for 5,699 yards. If he wins a fourth straight rushing title in 1994, he will become just the second to do it, joining Cleveland's Jim Brown, who won five straight (1957-61).

At Smith's current pace, he will cross the 10,000-yard barrier (only eight backs have done that) at age 27. There is a question of whether Walter Payton's all-time record is actually within reach. Smith is averaging 92 yards per game in his four years. If he maintains that pace and does not miss a game, he will be just over 16,000 yards—a little more than 700 behind Payton—after the year 2000. That's seven more years of carrying a heavy load. Smith thinks it can be done, believes a 2,000-yard season is possible. And who's going to argue with him now?

"I have a goal of reaching 2,000 yards. Every year there's a different challenge. I have two Super Bowl rings, but I'd like to have three or four more. I'm going to challenge myself to do better than I've done so far," he said.

Smith has overcome all the obstacles in his path to date. This fall he will play for a new coordinator (Ernie Zampese) and a new head coach (Barry Switzer), neither of whom plans to make significant changes in the Cowboys' offense. Smith isn't worried about the future under the new coaches. "Some kind of way, I know we're going to run the football," he said.

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Free-Agency Scorecard The Buffalo Bil one-two combinates Sectors of the Sectors o

The NFL's biggest winners and losers

by LARRY FELSER

BUFFALO NEWS

The Buffalo Bills had just absorbed a one-two combination punch from the Seattle Seahawks, losing Pro Bowl cornerback Nate Odomes and Pro Bowl offensive tackle Howard Ballard within hours of one another late in February. Marv Levy, Buffalo's coach, assessed the damage: "This will hurt us a lot more than it will help Seattle."

So far, that's the story of free agency. It hasn't been an elixir for many NFL teams, but it has virtually destroyed or heavily damaged several. There are tales of success, though.

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARC

The Los Angeles Raiders were rescued from despair when they reached agreement with the Giants' veteran quarterback Jeff Hostetler late in the 1993 signing period. The Raiders had drifted from quarterback to quarterback, from the plummeting Jay Schroeder to the undisciplined Todd

Marinovich. At the end of the 1992 season they were rudderless.

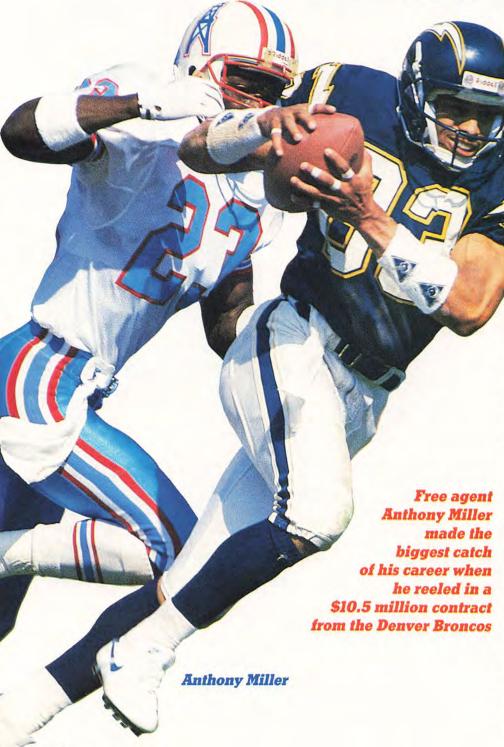
Hostetler changed that—slowly.
The Raiders had to learn how to protect a quarterback who liked to move around a lot, and Hostetler had to grow accustomed to the philosophy of a vertical passing game after years of conservatism with the Giants.

Finally, in the stretch run last fall, Hosteller grew comfortable enough to take over the team. Wide receiver Tim Brown had been a wasted talent, tucked away and not fully utilized. Hosteller insisted upon using Brown, and in the last third of the season the ex-Heisman Trophy winner from Notre Dame became a superstar. It converted a team that failed to make the playoffs into a team that was 30 minutes away from ending Buffalo's dynasty in the AFC. The irony is that Brown himself became a free agent after the season ended.

That is part of the reality of NFL free agency. Even the status of a desirable star can change quickly. Last year the Indianapolis Colts made linebacker Duane Bickett their franchise player, a move that protected him from most predators. This year the Colts released Bickett in a move to get under the new salary cap.

REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

Most of the free agency headlines are occupied by the big-name signees, such as Reggie White, Will Wolford, Ronnie Lott, and Gary Clark. But a division championship changed hands last season with mass movement in two lines. It happened in the NFC Central. The defending champion Minnesota Vikings lost three offensive linemen: Keith Lowdermilk, Brian Habib, and Gary Zimmerman. The Detroit Lions signed three offensive linemen: Bill Fralic, David Richards, and David Lutz. The Lions won the division and Minnesota slipped to second. When Barry Sanders, Detroit's great running back, was hurt late in the season, the offense was able to function with strangers replacing Sanders because the three new linemen kept the ground game run-



ning as the Lions won three of their last four. Conversely, with its offensive line in a jumble, Minnesota scored 97 fewer points than its 1992 team and won two fewer games.

Denver was among the most aggressive teams in signing free agents. That and the switch to a San Francisco-style attack meant an increase of seven points per game in '93 as the Broncos rose from ninth in AFC scoring to first. Surprisingly, their won-lost record improved only slightly, from 8-8 in 1992 to 9-7 last season.

Free agency virtually destroyed two powers in the NFC East. Philadelphia and Washington. After White signed with Green Bay, fullback Keith Byars and tackle Ron Heller fled to Miami to rejoin ex-teammate Keith Jackson. who was in the forefront of free agency the season before due to a successful court battle. The Eagles were dead when quarterback Randall Cunningham got hurt, but their playoff chances probably dissolved long before that because of the free-agent losses. The Redskins made "We Are Family" their theme in the good years, but the family was deserted by Clark, linebacker Wilber Marshall, cornerback Martin Mayhew, and defensive linemen Fred Stokes and Jumpy Geathers.

In 1992, San Diego won its first division championship in the AFC West in 14 years. Gouged by free-agent losses, the Chargers slipped right out of the playoffs last season.

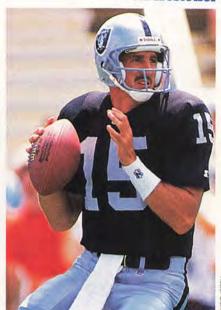
Shoppers had picked their way through the Rod Bernstine

Charger roster, signing running back Rod Bernstine, offensive lineman David Richards, linebackers Henry Rolling and Dennis Murphy, as well as Tony Blaylock, a cornerback whose value as a backup was underlined when veteran Gill Byrd was lost for the season before opening day.

DEALING WITH FREE AGENCY

Some teams seemed ill-equipped to deal with free agency. New Orleans was among them. The Saints were one of the strongest NFL teams in 1992, but they crashed over the league's new ways of doing business. They bungled a new contract for quarterback Bobby Hebert and then saw him sign with Atlanta. where he became one of the most successful free agents. To replace him, they entered the market themselves and stumbled, signing Wade Wilson, a career backup. Wilson was O.K. at the start, as the Saints won their first five games, but then he found his level and the Saints fell below their own, losing eight of their last 11 games and missing the playoffs. The unkindest cut may have been the case of

Jeff Hostetler



guard Jim Dombrowski, whom the Saints had made one of the highest paid offensive linemen in the league and then watched him sit on the bench as journeyman Chris Port did the playing. After the season, offensive line coach Paul Boudreau became the first assistant fired by Jim Mora since he came to New Orleans.

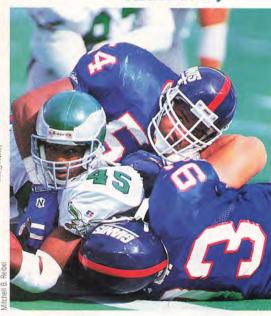
Pittsburgh couldn't seem to cope with the concept of the "qualifying offer," the contract proposal a team must make to its own free agents in order to protect its interests. A high qualifying offer for an important player at least assures that if another team does sign him, the team that loses the player will receive reasonable compensation, i.e., first- and thirdround draft choices for a player offered a contract in the \$800,000 range, in return.

Neil O'Donnell, in his first season as Pittsburgh's starting quarterback, led the team to the AFC Central title in '92. Yet after the season, when O'Donnell, a fourth-year pro, became a free agent, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers signed him to a rich offer sheet. Since O'Donnell had less than five years' experience, he was a restricted free agent, which meant that the Steelers had to make a qualifying offer to him at a mandated minimum or they would receive no compensation if they lost him. The Steelers had to meet the Bucs' price in order to keep him, which they did. They ended up paying O'Donnell more than they wanted or probably needed to.

Pittsburgh also had lost two starting linebackers, Jerroll Williams and Hardy Nickerson. Williams, signed by San Diego, was injured and hardly played, but Nickerson, signed by Tampa Bay, became the most productive defensive free agent of all. In order to fill the linebacker vacancies, the Steelers signed Rams veteran Kevin Greene, who had a good year, albeit not as good as Nickerson's.

There seemed a pattern of some predator teams targeting one particular team to raid. The Bucs' target was Pittsburgh. The Dolphins signed so many Philadelphia players—Byars, Heller, nose tackle Mike Golic, as well as Jackson in the special free-agency case from 1992—that fans started calling them the "Mi-ami Eagles." The pattern continued this spring when Seattle plucked Odomes and Ballard from Buffalo in one weekend. Signing free agents in numbers was no guarantee of success. The Dolphins had picked up Giants wide receiver Mark Ingram a year ago, but that didn't prevent them from losing their last five games and slipping from the best record in the league right out of the playoffs.

Carlton Bailey



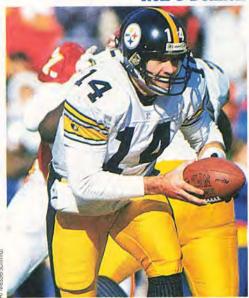
SIGNING IN

Free agents with big reputations brought no guarantees with them, either. The New York Jets thought they had turned around their fortunes when they signed safety Ronnie Lott, a future Hall of Famer, and Giants defensive lineman Leonard Marshall last spring, but neither played up to his reputation down the stretch, and that contributed to the dismissal of coach Bruce Coslet.

Some teams, however, improved themselves with judicious signings. One of the best returns came in Kansas City, where Marcus Allen, placed in football purgatory for four years by Al Davis, the Raiders' svengali with whom he feuded, rediscovered part of his prime, helped push the Chiefs to the AFC championship game, and ended up in the Pro Bowl. Buffalo needed someone to take the place of James Lofton, so it signed Indianapolis veteran Bill Brooks. He finished with 60 catches, just three fewer than Gary Clark, a more expensive free agent Phoenix had signed from Washington. Brooks, in fact, caught one more touchdown pass than Clark (5-4). The New York Giants released linebackers Carl Banks and Pepper Johnson and replaced them with Michael Brooks and Carlton Bailey, whose play was a key to the Giants' success. Few of last year's free agents, however, had exceptional seasons. Only five of them were voted into the Pro Bowl. Both AFC picks-Allen and Byars-were on offense. All three NFC selections-White, Nickerson, and Tim McDonald, the safety San Francisco signed from Phoenix-were on defense.

The byproduct of free agency was an increased number of trades. That's part of the reason Joe Montana ended up in Kansas City and Boomer Esiason became the Jets' quarterback. Teams were eager to get something in return for players who were no longer useful to them or who were a season away from selling themselves in the open market. Minnesota, faced with the imminent departure of Pro Bowl lineman Gary Zimmerman in 1994, traded him to Denver a year early. The key word in the new way of doing business is "judgment." Teams are confronted more often by which players to pursue and which of their own players to keep. The latter task is complicated by

Neil O'Donnell



the question "How much are we willing to pay to keep him?"

"In the long run," said commissioner Paul Tagliabue, "good organizations will win and weak organizations will lose." John Butler, Buffalo's general manager, puts it less tactfully: "It's the same as the draft. Some teams, you could give them 18 draft choices and they would still screw it up."

SALARY CAP

They call it "Salary Cap 101." It's the second stage of free agency, which is forcing NFL general managers, most of whom were trained as football scouts, to be mathematicians and financiers. Not even the people who formulated it can keep the salary cap straight. An audit of NFL books in late March by one of top accounting firms "found" \$400,000 for each team, pushing the cap from \$33.8 million to \$34.2 million. A month later, another \$400,000 was discovered, pushing the final cap to \$34.6 million.

In human terms it's like this: Rich Camarillo, the Pro Bowl punter who averaged 43.7 yards per kick last season, was released by Phoenix after the Cardinals signed Jeff Feagles, who averaged almost four yards less per kick for Philadelphia. The reason was simple: Feagles came cheaper.

"Free agency," said George Young, the New York Giants' general manager, "is going to eliminate the NFL's middle class."

It also causes a chain reaction of events. Consider the daisy chain that happened among NFL quarterbacks last winter. The Chicago Bears signed Erik Kramer away from Detroit, which in turn plucked Scott Mitchell, whom Don Shula had carefully nurtured in Miami. Chicago, with Kramer installed as its starter, released Jim Harbaugh. Miami then

Gary Zimmerman



went searching for a backup to Dan Marino, who was gingerly returning to the lineup after suffering a torn Achilles' tendon last season, and found Bernie Kosar. The Los Angeles Rams signed Chris Miller from Atlanta, then traded Jim Everett to New Orleans. Subsequently the Saints released their expensive 1993 free agent, Wade Wilson. Atlanta traded with Indianapolis for Jeff George, which put in jeopardy Bobby Hebert, who was one of the more successful free agents last year when he was signed from New Orleans to replace the injured Miller.

It's dizzvina

Denver fired off its second rocket in free agency. "We gave John Elway two new running backs and three new offensive linemen to protect him last year," said Bronco coach Wade Phillips. "Now we have Anthony Miller

to play catch with him." The Broncos chased a top receiver with Plan A and options B, C, and D. They signed Tim Brown of the Raiders to an expensive offer sheet that included a restrictive no-trade clause. Because Brown was labeled a transition player, the Raiders were able to match the Denver offer and keep him. Then the Broncos went to option B, Miller, San Diego's star receiver. The Chargers declined to match Denver's offer, but if they had matched it. Denver owner Pat Bowlen was prepared to pursue Haywood Jeffires of Houston (option C), and if unsuccessful with him, to chase Ricky Sanders of Washington (option D). Bowlen wound up shifting gears and trading for Mike Pritchard of Atlanta to team with Miller

In Brown's case, Denver had a dual strategy. If it couldn't acquire him, at least it pushed the Raiders into spending so much money to keep him that they wouldn't have enough to sign the topflight running back they need. The strategy is understandable since the Raiders beat Denver three times last year. The last one eliminated the Broncos from the playoffs.

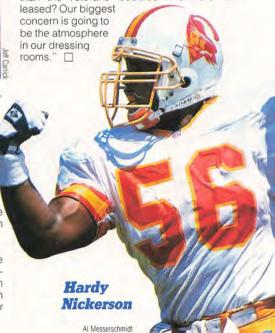
"We'll still beat them," snarled Raiders owner Al Davis. "On the field and off."

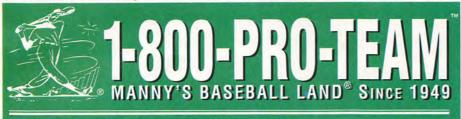
The New England Patriots used a similar tactic when they signed Miami place-kicker Pete Stoyanovich. The Dolphins matched the offer, but in doing so, they saw their fund to sign other free agents reduced.

The salary cap put a new complexion on NFL free agency, and many of the players didn't like it. "The owners love it, and they should," said Pittsburgh cornerback Rod Woodson. "Now they can say, 'Hey, we can't pay you because the salary cap you agreed to says we can't.' The cap screws the players."

The coaches take a different view.

"The most important element of what happened since last season is dynamics," said Kansas City's Marty Schottenheimer. "By that I mean what the salary cap has done. How is the player who has to take a big pay cut in order to remain on the team going to interact with the \$3 million player in the next locker? How are the veterans going to feel toward the rookies who are going to make the team, some of them because they come cheaper than the veterans' buddies who were re-









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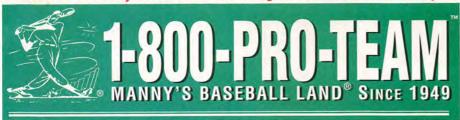


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Free Agency Who's Who and Who's Where

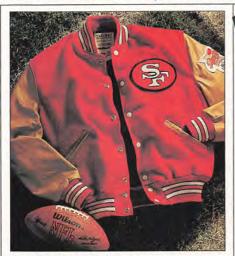
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Sean Salisbury	Houston	Minnesota	 Eric Moore 	Cincinnati	N.Y. Giants		San Francisco.	
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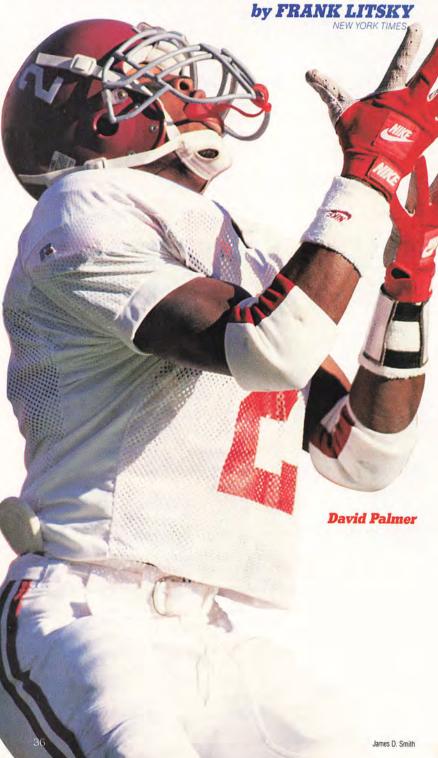
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CAUGHT INTHE DRAFT

A team-by-team appraisal



In the distant past, when pro football had no unrestricted free agency, no salary cap, and no million-dollar players, the annual draft of college players was still a gamble. You never knew whether a can't-miss player would miss, but at least you drafted a dozen or more players and some would make it.

Oh, how that has changed. First came Plan B free agency, and teams could fill gaps before and after the draft. Last year, it was goodbye to Plan B and hello to unrestricted free agency, and the draft was reduced to eight rounds. This year, the insidious new salary cap is strangling unrestricted free agency, and the draft is down to seven rounds. Before the '94 draft, some teams tried to fill gaps with free agents. Some waited for the draft to get what they needed. Some seemed too shellshocked to know what to do or when to do it. And the collective bargaining agreement between the club owners and the players' union allowed some teams to receive extra draft choices as compensation for losing a large number of unrestricted free agents or for losing certain key ones.

In all, 222 players were selected. Surprisingly, they did not include Charlie Ward, the Florida State quarterback who last fall won the Heisman Trophy as the nation's outstanding college player. In a world in which the only thing better than a 6-foot-3-inch quarterback is one who is 6-4, Ward stands just 5-11½. He had played in basically a shotgun offense. Perhaps most important, NFL teams feared he would be more committed to pro basketball than pro football.

Everyone felt the best player in the draft was Dan (Big Daddy) Wilkinson, a 6-3, 315-pound defensive tackle from Ohio State. The Cincinnati Bengals, with the first pick overall, wanted him, but the Bengals pinch pennies better than anyone else in the NFL and were tempted to trade the pick, thus saving themselves a small fortune. Such teams as the New England Patriots, the Seattle Seahawks, and the Arizona Cardinals tried to tie up neat packages of draft choices and veteran players to induce the Bengels to trade him. But in the week before the draft, the Bengals' switchboard was flooded with calls from people in Cincinnati (where so many of their ticket buyers lived), Columbus (where Wilkinson went to college), and Dayton (where he lived) that the

Rules changes made certain other types of players more valuable than in the past. Because kickoffs would be moved back five yards to the 30-yard line, more would be returned and therefore kickoff returners would become more valuable. And because the new rules provided for two-point conversions, a position player who had been an option quarterback would become more attractive. One player who fit both categories was WR/KR/occasional QB David Palmer of Alabama, and the Minnesota Vikings gladly picked him off in the second round.

Bengals had no choice. So they drafted him.

Who did well and who didn't in the draft? The real answers will come in two or three or four years, when these players have had a chance to prove themselves. If you can't wait, here are the apparent winners and losers:

Winners-Vikings, Bengals, Tampa Bay Buccaneers (who are not noted for such brilliance), and 49ers (who are).

Losers-Cowboys (where have you gone, Jimmy Johnson, when we need you?), Raiders (known for weird drafts), and Bills (someone is breaking up that old gang of mine).

And a closer look at who did what:

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Not marvelous, but maybe not bad. They needed young offensive linemen, but their new head coach, Buddy Ryan, never met a defensive player he didn't like. Before the draft, the Cardinals signed DE Clyde Simmons and LB Seth Joyner, two of Buddy's favorites on the Philadelphia Eagles when he coached there, and re-signed LB Eric Hill, one of the best. Those three players will cost \$40 million over four years. In the draft, Ryan's first-round pick was OLB Jamir Miller of UCLA, a quick, outside pass rusher. That was a gamble because Miller is 20 years old, immature, and prone to off-field problems. Buddy plans to start him because, he said, "We think he can be a super player." RB Chuck Levy of Arizona (second round) has great speed and quickness but is prone to injury.

Dan Wilkinson



ATLANTA FALCONS

Good to very good. The first-round choice had been traded to the Indianapolis Colts as part payment for QB Jeff George, and the new coach, June Jones, needed pass rushers and a cornerback (to replace Deion Sanders). The Falcons had also lost Michael Haynes and Mike Pritchard, and how do you play a runand-shoot offense without good wide receivers? Well, if you consider George a replacement for a No. 1 and DT Chris Doleman (traded from the Vikings) an equal value for Pritchard, the draft was off to a good start. WR Bert Emanuel of Rice, a bright but small college quarterback, became a second-round project. Third-round S Anthony Phillips of Texas A&M-Kingsville (formerly Texas A&I) has much to learn, but at 6-1 and 217, with 4.47 speed, he could become a steal.

BUFFALO BILLS

Despite six choices in the first three rounds, a dull draft. Forget those four straight AFC titles. The Bills are aging. Last year they lost OT Will Wolford. This year, they lost OT Howard Ballard and CB Nate Odomes and traded CB James Williams. But the only offensive line-

Antonio Langham



man they took in the draft was OT Corey Louchiey of South Carolina, 6-7, 309, and a thirdround project. Their first-round choice was CB Jeff Burris, who played TB, KR, SS, FS, and CB for Notre Dame. He may become highly useful, but a first-rounder? WR Bucky Brooks of North Carolina (second round) is, at 5-11, a slam-dunk champion. TE Lonnie Johnson of Florida State (second round) could become a top receiver. At least the draft brought speed from Burris (4.43) and Brooks (4.47).

CHICAGO BEARS

Not bad, although no fast receiver turned up. Before the draft, the Bears added QB Erik Kramer, RB Lewis Tillman, FB Merril Hoge, and OT Andy Heck, a nice job of selecting and spending and a boon to the team with the NFL's weakest offense last year. The firstround choice was a beauty: OLB John Thierry of Alcorn State, 6-4 and 248 with 4.59 speed. He's a fine pass rusher who will start right away and get better-maybe a lot better. OT Marcus Spears of Northwestern Louisiana (third round) is 6-4, 302 and has the tools, though he doesn't know yet how to use them. DT Jim Flanigan (third round), like veteran DT and fellow Notre Damer Chris Zorich, is small in size but not in toughness.

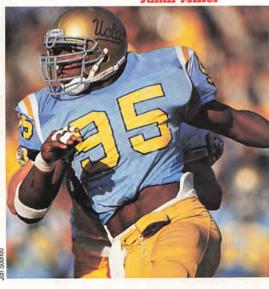
CINCINNATI BENGALS

A winner, if only because of DT Dan Wilkinson of Ohio State. Last year the offense ranked last in the NFL in scoring (11.7 points per game) and touchdowns rushing (3). But good defensive linemen are scarce, and when you see the best prospect since Reggie White. you grab him. Which the Bengals did, their best move all year, because they did little in the free-agent market. Wilkinson is fast (4.81 speed at 315 pounds) and strong (32 bench presses of 225 pounds), so physically gifted that he tends to get lazy at times, especially in practice. But he is barely 21, and that lessthan-full effort should pass. Many teams were unsure of WR Darnay Scott of San Diego State, who drops too many passes, but he was a good second-round risk.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

A nice job, especially on the first round. Before the draft, they signed CB Don Griffin, a wise old head, but with more and more threewideout offenses, more cornerbacks were needed. The Browns had a choice in the first round between the two top defensive backs on the board: Antonio Langham of Alabama and Aaron Glenn of Texas A&M. Langham is taller (5-11 vs. 5-8). Glenn is faster (4.4 vs.

Jamir Miller



37

4.5). Langham is not that bulky, not that fast, not a big hitter, but the Browns took him because he was such a big-play creator, with 19 interceptions in college. Later, they traded up for the last pick in the first round and corralled WR Derrick Alexander of Michigan, who can do almost everything, including juvenile taunting in the end zone.

DALLAS COWBOYS

Freakish, dull, embarrassing, stupid-pick one or more. Jimmy Johnson, the coach/personnel guru who had led the Cowboys to the last two Super Bowl titles, was gone because of the ego clash between him and owner/general manager Jerry Jones. So Jones conducted his own draft. He tried desperately, amateurishly, and unsuccessfully to trade WR Alvin Harper and move up in the first round. He finally traded up five spots for Shante Carver of Arizona State, a slow, 240-pound outside linebacker destined to play defensive end. Carver would have been there a dozen picks later, and he has not made anyone forget the departed DT Tony Casillas and DT Jimmie Jones. Although OT/OG Larry Allen of Sonoma State (second round) is overweight and unsophisticated, he may become a good pro. He is needed because OG Kevin Gogan and OG/C John Gesek are gone.

DENVER BRONCOS

On draft day, they were almost shut out. Add the pre- and post-draft signings, and they did fine, getting high-class help for a defense that collapsed last year. Free agency brought Ray Crockett and Ben Smith, two wise cornerbacks, and Anthony Miller and Mike Pritchard. two speed receivers who can stretch the defense and allow John Elway to throw deep. On draft day, with no picks in Rounds 1, 3, 5, and 6, they did little. OLB Allen Aldridge (second round) is a reach-fast and quick but undersized (6-1) and raw. DB Randy Fuller of Tennessee State (fourth round) can cover and is willing to hit, but at 5-9 and 173, he is not big enough. Wait until you see their draft next year-no picks in Rounds 1, 2, 3, and 6.

DETROIT LIONS

Not bad. They needed help in the secondary and at inside linebacker, plus players to fit into a run-and-shoot offense trying to become somewhat more orthodox. Before the draft, they signed Scott Mitchell, the best free-agent quarterback available. On the first round, unable to move up for CB Aaron Glenn, they took WR Johnny Morton of Southern California. He's no burner, but a control receiver who runs routes the way they are drawn up. Even though the Lions had plenty of receivers. Morton could help them for years. S Van Malone of Texas (second round) is a tough hitter with. according to draft guru Joel Buchsbaum, "a special-teams' personality." Sleeper: OG Tony Semple of Memphis State (fifth round) if he learns to play up to his size (6-4, 287).

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Good enough, maybe real good, and a plus for signing unrestricted free agents. When they lost OLB Tony Bennett, they signed DE Sean Jones to keep the heat off DE Reggie White. Two days before the draft, they signed RB Reggie Cobb to help a bland running game. In the draft, they helped the offense more, though they did not get a big receiver to

negate the constant double-teaming of WR Sterling Sharpe. Their first-round pick, Aaron Taylor (6-4, 303) of Notre Dame, was the best offensive lineman on the board. He'll start at left guard, which should minimize his problems against quick outside pass rushers. Otherwise, he's excellent. RB LeShon Johnson of Northern Illinois (third round), who led collegians last season with 1,976 yards in 12 games, may need time to learn but will not get it.

HOUSTON OILERS

Decent at the top before it drifted off. The Oilers have made the playoffs seven straight years, but that old gang of theirs is breaking up. Say farewell to QB Warren Moon, one of the best. and to DE William Fuller and DE Sean Jones, two of the best. The offensive line is aging. Receivers are disappearing. The first two picks brought needed defensive ends: Henry Ford of Arkansas (first round) and Jeremy Nunley of Alabama (second round). Ford has the tools but is not physical enough. Nunley plays hard and well but lacks speed outside and power inside. In time, they will help, and this Ford will soon be driving a Caddy. WR Malcolm Seabron of Fresno State (third round) has quickness, smarts, 4.45 speed, and, from last season, a dislocated elbow and a sprained knee.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Very good to excellent, and maybe it could have been even better. They have been last in rushing the last three seasons and needed a big-play running back. With the second pick overall, they got a beauty in Marshall Faulk of San Diego State, extremely fast (4.43) and tough but young and immature. From the deal that sent unhappy QB Jeff George to the Falcons and then a draft-day tradeup, the Colts had the fifth pick overall and faced a difficult decision. Do they count on Jim Harbaugh, a free-agent addition, as their present and longterm quarterback or do they draft Trent Dilfer, a potential franchise savior? They voted for Harbaugh and used the pick for OLB Trev Alberts of Nebraska, a superb pass rusher. He will help a defense whose 21 sacks ranked last in the NFL last year. OG/C Eric Mahlum of California (second round) should help quickly.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

A good job for a team that had a clear-cut need at cornerback after Albert Lewis and Kevin Ross, two of the best, had flown the free-agent coup. RB Greg Hill of Texas A&M (first round) is a quick, explosive, finesse runner, but he lacks power and will not carry 25 times a game. Still. he should eventually succeed Marcus Allen and was worth being picked where he was. FB Donnell Bennett of Miami (second round), at 6-0 and 247, is in the Chiefs' tradition of big backs. and his 4.7 speed will not hurt. WR Lake Dawson of Notre Dame (third round) and WR Chris Penn of Tulsa (fourth round) can catch but lack speed. Cornerbacks? Bracey Walker of North Carolina (fourth round), James Burton of Fresno State (fifth round), and, hours after the draft, ex-Giant Mark Collins, an unrestricted free agent the Chiefs will love.

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

How do you ever explain Raiders drafts? They badly wanted a productive running back and pass protectors to take pressure off QB Jeff Hostetler. They needed linebackers and a pass-rushing replacement for DE Howie Long. now safely entrenched behind a TV microphone. So they drafted OLB Rob Fredrickson of Michigan State on the first round and OLB/DE James Folston of Northeast Louisiana on the second. But is Fredrickson, the president of his senior class, a first-rounder? Is Folston (6-2, 235, 4.55) big enough to be the full-time defensive end the Raiders want? RB Calvin Jones of Nebraska (third round) is smart, but he is also an I-back runner who must learn to play in a two-back offense. So Hoss may face another injury-of-the-week season.

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Not so smart, and don't be lulled by all the trading that gave them three choices in the second round and three in the third. Nor by the two trades that never happened, the ones that would have brought WR Alvin Harper from the Cowboys and QB Randall Cunningham from the Eagles. Because they didn't like QB Trent Dilfer on the first round, they traded down, so they will go at quarterback with free agent Chris

Johnny Morton





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Miller, coming off two knee operations in two years Their best picks were OT Wayne Gandy of Auburn (first round), who will be good when he becomes physical; WR Isaac Bruce of Memphis State (second round), a good player who lacks size and speed; and DE/DT Brad Ottis of Wayne State (third round), with 31 sacks in 1992-93.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Decent after a questionable first rounder. The defensive front seven was decimated last year. and help was needed especially at linebacker and tackle. Six of the seven draftees were on defense, led by DT Tim Bowens of Mississippi (6-4, 325), who could be an awful first-round reach. He weighed almost 340 last season. He played only one year at a four-year college after transferring from, no kidding, Itawamba Community College. "There's some risk," conceded coach Don Shula of the Dolphins. OLB Aubrey Beavers of Oklahoma (second round) is raw but could be an important player. Interesting pick: Fourth-round OLB Ronnie Woolfork of Oklahoma (6-3, 253), a high school guarterback who could be a steal if he learns to be intense.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

A slick, professional job. With two picks in the first round and two in the second, they got four players who may be immediate starters while addressing their needs: offensive line, defenden

Heath Shuler



sive line, and wide receiver. CB Dewayne Washington of North Carolina State (first round) has 4.45 speed and will learn run support. OT Todd Steussie of California (first round) is 6-6 and 315 with ability. a good attitude, a 465-pound bench press, and a 610-pound squat. WR/PR/KR/QB David Palmer of Alabama (second round) is a 5-8, 167-pound 4.5 darter who makes this fast team faster. DE Fernando Smith

of Jackson State (second round) will replace Chris Doleman as a pass rusher. All this plus new QB Warren Moon.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

If DE Willie McGinest of Southern Cal, the fourth choice overall, is as good as coach Bill Parcells thinks, this will be a marvelous draft. In the offseason, the Patriots improved their secondary with S Myron Guyton and CB Ricky Reynolds. In the draft, they wanted a speed receiver for QB Drew Blesdoe's bombs and help for the defensive front seven. McGinest (6-4, 255, 4.7) has a great outside rush, but is he physical enough? Many teams think not and did not rank him among the top 10 picks. WR Kevin Lee of Alabama (second round) is an unpolished but real prospect with 4.49 speed. QB Jay Walker of Howard (seventh round) is raw and could be a backup bargain or a training-camp bust.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Just fair. They wanted youth for an aging defense, and with the 13th pick overall they took DE Joe Johnson of Louisville, a good pass rusher but inconsistent against the run and not really ready. He was probably a reach. RB Mario Bates (6-0, 217, 4.4) of Arizona State (second round) has the right numbers, but his skills are limited to running. He is a fine prospect with a bad knee. QB Doug Nussmeier of Idaho (fourth round) is a lefty with an erratic arm and a slow release. Although he will take time and has much to learn, his attitude is good and he seems a worthwhile project. And after all, how long will the Saints be enchanted by their new quarterback, Jim Everett?

NEW YORK GIANTS

Maybe better than people think. The main priorities were a fast wide receiver, defensive backs to replace Myron Guyton and Mark Collins, and offensive linemen to replace Bob Kratch and Eric Moore. They stunned everyone when they spent their first-round pick on WR/PR/KR Thomas Lewis of Indiana, but no one else knew that this supposed 4.5 or 4.6 receiver had run 4.41 for the Giants. CB Thomas Randolph of Kansas State (second round) is a 5-9, 176-pound flyer who plays tall because of a 41-inch vertical leap. Strapping S Jason Sehorn of Southern Cal (second round) may be a latter-day Ronnie Lott. Speed? How about 4.42 for Randolph and 4.58 for Sehorn.

NEW YORK JETS

Good enough to have Pete Carroll, the new coach, smiling. They needed a cornerback, a wide receiver, and offensive linemen. Everyone seemed sure they would take a receiver, probably Charles Johnson, in the first round. Instead. they traded up for CB Aaron Glenn of Texas A&M (5-8, 184, 4.4), a fast cover man who must learn run support. In man coverage, he's a Darrell Green clone. In four years at Wyoming, WR Ryan Yarborough (second round) caught 222 passes for 4,357 yards and 42 touchdowns. Now he must do the same at a higher level. While QB Glenn Foley of Boston College (seventh round) is not the biggest or fastest, he may be the toughest. A fifth-round name with a good ring: OLB Horace Morris of Tennessee.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

As disjointed and puzzling as this draft is, it may turn out O.K. The owner insulted half of his play-

ers and then sold the team. The front office tried unsuccessfully to trade QB Randall Cunningham. Unrestricted free agents, notably DE Clyde Simmons and OLB Seth Joyner, took off as fast as they could. Despite all that, some good things happened. At 6-8 and 317, OT Bernard Williams of Georgia (first round) is more lanky than bulky, and if he learns to play hard all the time, he can become a Pro Bowl regular. The third-rounders, OG/OT Joe Panos of Wisconsin and S Eric Zomalt of California, are hardworking but limited. Still, they will help. But the second-rounders, DT Bruce Walker of UCLA and RB Charlie Garner of Tennessee, need to get their acts together.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Decent enough because WR Charles Johnson of Colorado slipped down to the 17th pick overall. They needed a fullback to replace the departed Merril Hoge. They wanted a fast receiver and almost signed WR Alvin Harper to an offer sheet. On draft day, the receiver fell in their arms when the Jets passed up Johnson. The Steelers grabbed him, and why not? He has decent size (6-0, 188), speed (4.46), and smarts (he graduated college in three years). The third round produced a fullback, Byron (Bam) Morris of Texas Tech (6-1, 235), who rams defenses. Newly signed John L. Williams will hold the fort until Morris is ready. Of the two second-round DEs, Brentson Buckner of Clemson (6-2, 300) tends to be lazy and Jason Gildon of Oklahoma State (6-4, 224) is an outside pass rusher who will probably be limited to third-down duty.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Fair job, considering all the needs. The pass defense wanted tackles to apply pressure, line-backers to blitz, and cornerbacks to cover. The offense needed guards to replace Mike Zandofsky and Mike Withycombe and a receiver to replace Anthony Miller. And there was no first-round pick. The second round brought OGs Isaac Davis of Arkansas and Vaughn Parker of UCLA. But the 325-pound Davis, though talented, is overweight and the 305-pound Parker needs more strength. WR Andre Coleman of Kansas State (third round) is a little burner with 4.39 speed. CB Willie Clark of Notre Dame (third round) is fast (4.45) and covers well but lacks experience.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Did anyone do better? They wanted a defensive lineman to pair with bright, young Dana Stubblefield; a fullback to take over for aging, highsalaried Tom Rathman; a kicker to replace Mike Cofer, and an inside linebacker to replace Bill Romanowski. (They had already signed ILB Ken Norton Jr. and ILB Gary Plummer as veteran free agents.) They satisfied all four needs in the first three rounds. In the first round, they traded up for mobile DE Bryant Young of Notre Dame and traded down for 238-pound FB William Floyd of Florida State. The second round brought monstrous ILB Kevin Mitchell of Syracuse and quick CB Tyronne Drakeford of Virginia Tech. The third round produced Doug Brien of California, the only place-kicker drafted.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Not too bad, considering they had only five choices. Before the draft, they signed CB Nate Odomes and OT Howard Ballard, two gifted players too expensive for the Bills to keep. The draft priorities were a defensive lineman to keep DT Cortez Kennedy from being double- or triple-teamed and pass blockers so QB Rick Mirer would not be sacked 47 times again. After trying unsuccessfully to trade up for DT Dan Wilkinson or DE Bryant Young, their first-round pick was DE Sam Adams of Texas A&M (6-2, 292, 4.9), a blue-chipper if he learns to work hard. C Kevin Mawae of Louisiana State (second round) played tackle as a sophomore, guard as a junior, and center as a senior. Sleeper: TE Carlester Crumpler of East Carolina (seventh round) if he improves his blocking.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

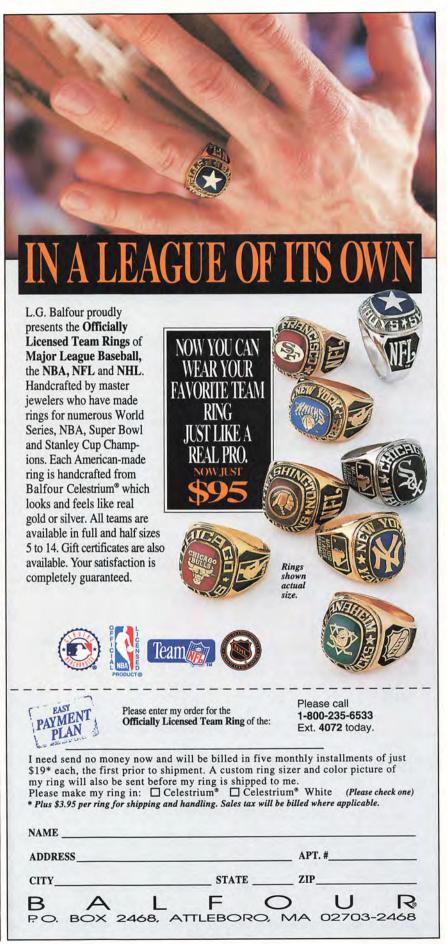
A big-time draft. The NFL's 27th-ranked offense needed a scary running back, especially since free-agent RB Reggie Cobb left town for Green Bay two days before the draft. The offensive and defensive lines needed help, and a backup



was needed for QB Craig Erickson. That quarterback job seemed destined for a veteran free agent, but when Trent Dilfer, a potential franchise quarterback, dropped down to the Bucs on the sixth pick of the first round, they took him gleefully. Now, once Dilfer learns the job, Erickson seems the designated backup. RB Errict Rhett of Florida (second round) is an aggressive inside runner and will probably start. Sleeper: C Jim Pyne of Virginia Tech, a 6-2 overachiever.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

A thoughtful, competent draft. The offense needed a quarterback, an offensive lineman, and a wide receiver, and by the end of the third round it had them all. With the third pick overall and no returning quarterback they liked, they were taking one of the two bright young quarterbacks. But which? General manager Charley Casserly liked Trent Dilfer of Fresno State. The new coach, Norv Turner, preferred Heath Shuler of Tennessee. Turner won, and Shuler will start quickly, maybe in the opener, with a limited offense that will grow weekly. OT Tre Johnson of Temple (second round) is big (6-3, 315) and quick. WR Tydus Winans of Fresno State (third round) is smallish but has 4.4 speed.



The Top '95 Pro **Prospects**

by JIM CARLEY

In the 1994 NFL draft, some observers might have been surprised to see a littleknown player from Alcorn State, linebacker John Thierry, go in the first round (to the Bears). In next year's draft, there won't be any surprise when another Alcorn State player goes in the first round. And that one, guarterback Steve McNair, should be one of the first players picked, if not the first. As such, he heads Street & Smith's 1995 Mock First Round draft, gleaned from discussions with numerous pro scouts and personnel people, all of whom asked to remain anonymous. Talking about underclassmen this early is a no-no with some college coaches.

At Alcorn, McNair is already a legend. And it hasn't been kept much of a secret, since he was one of the 10 finalists for the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's best quarterback last year, and as a sophomore was the first athlete from Division I-AA to win Sports Illustrated's Offensive Player of the Year award. McNair wouldn't be the first small-school quarterback to be the top pick, but he would be the first since Terry Bradshaw of Louisiana Tech went No. 1 to Pittsburgh in 1970.

Most folks around the country know him as "Air" McNair, but they call him "Air II" McNair at Alcorn because his older brother, Fred, was a standout quarterback at the school in 1988-89. "Air II" has broken all the Alcorn State records, throwing for more than 9,600 yards and 75 touchdowns in his first three years. But his powerful arm isn't the only thing the scouts like about him. McNair is also a tremendous clutch player who brought the Braves from behind five times last year alone. He has developed the kind of reputation John Elway has with Denver.

"He just has a knack," one AFC scout said of McNair. "He's the most productive guy at bringing his team back that I've ever seen. If he does it some, you might say he's just lucky. But this guy's got a history of doing it all the time. He might have ice water in his veins. I don't know." Some scouts compare him to Randall Cunningham, while others say he's more like Warren Moon. "He's built real strong," one NFC scout said. "He's very raw right now, but he has great athletic skills.

McNair will have a big, quality target to throw to again this year, one who could follow his quarterback to the NFL. Marcus Hinton is a 6-4, 245-pound wide receiver who scouts say "looks like a tight end but runs like a wideout.

If McNair isn't the top pick, perhaps USC giant tackle Tony Boselli (6-8, 305) will be. He surprised some pro personnel people when he didn't come out last year, even though he missed five games after dislocating a kneecap. In the long legacy of superb Trojan offensive linemen (17 of them have been first-round picks), Boselli already ranks near the top.

"He's as good as those offensive linemen who came out last year," one AFC personnel director said. "In fact, I think this kid was better than [Georgia's] Bernard Williams [the Eagles' firstround pick last year]. If he comes off the knee injury and has a good year, he'll go real high."

UCLA wide receiver J.J. Stokes is the leading returning Heisman candidate. Last season, he caught 68 passes for 1,005 yards and 17 touchdowns. Said one scout, "He would have been my choice as the country's top re-ceiver if he had come out last year." Another scout called the 6-5, 214-pound Stokes "a big target with a long stride. Those little cornerbacks are going to have to get some stilts to cover him." Challenging Stokes for best re-

1995 Mock First Round Draft

- 1. Steve McNair, QB, Alcorn State
- Tony Boselli, OT, USC
- 3. J.J. Stokes, WR, UCLA
- 4. Joey Galloway, WR, Ohio State
- 5. Tyrone Wheatley, RB, Michigan 6. Kevin Carter, DE, Florida
- *Bobby Taylor, FS, Notre Dame *Korey Stringer, OL, Ohio State
- 9. Reuben Brown, OT, Pittsburgh 10. Bryan Schwartz, LB, Augustana College
- 11. Eric Zeier, QB, Georgia
- 12. Michael Westbrook, WR, Colorado
- 13. Rodney Thomas, RB, Texas A&M
- 14. Derrick Brooks, LB, Florida State
- 15. Carl Greenwood, DB, UCLA
- 16. Kelvin Anderson, RB, SE Missouri State
- 17. Dana Howard, LB, Illinois
- 18. Carl Kidd, DB, Arkansas
- 19. Antonio Armstrong, LB, Texas A&M
- 20. Zach Wiegert, OT, Nebraska
- 21. Lee Becton, RB, Notre Dame
- 22. Antonio Freeman, WR, Virginia Tech
- 23. Sam Shade, DB, Alabama
- 24. *Lovell Pinkney, WR, Texas
- 25. Sherman Williams, RB, Alabama
- 26. Chris T. Jones, WR, Miami
- 27. Sean Harris, LB, Arizona 28. Eddie Goines, WR, N.C. State
- 29. Barrett Brooks, OT, Kansas State
- 30. Andrew Peterson, OL, Washington

Other Potential First-Rounders

Clifton Abraham, DB, Florida State Toby Cates, WR, South Carolina Marcus Hinton, WR, Alcorn State Rob Johnson, QB, USC John Jones, OT, Kansas Ryan Leahy, OT, Notre Dame Kez McCorvey, WR, Florida State Brent Moss, RB, Wisconsin Craig Newsome, DB, Arizona State Jerrott Willard, LB. California

Other High-Round Possibilities

Justin Armour, WR, Stanford Dave Barr, QB, California Brandon Bennett, RB. South Carolina Tony Bouie, DB, Arizona David Dunn, WR, Fresno State Brian Gelzheiser, LB. Penn State Brian Hamilton, DE, Notre Dame *Jimmy Herndon, OT, Houston Chris Hudson, DB, Colorado Ken Irvin, DB, Memphis Napoleon Kaufman, RB, Washington Chad May, QB, Kansas State Steve Stenstrom, QB, Stanford Orlanda Thomas, DB. SW Louisiana

ceiver in the country will be Ohio State's Joey Galloway, a 4.3 runner in the 40 who has soft hands and big-play ability. Eleven of the 45 passes he caught last year went for TDs.

The country's best running back likely will be Michigan's Tyrone Wheatley, who gained 1,005 yards and 11 touchdowns despite missing two games with injuries. "He's a power runner," one scout said. "He had a little injury problem, but if he shakes that, he could be a very high pick.

Florida end Kevin Carter and Notre Dame safety Bobby Taylor might be the top two defensive players to be drafted. Carter is huge (6-6, 271) and runs a 4.4. Some scouts think Taylor was better last year as a sophomore than Jeff Burris, the Irish cornerback who went in the first round in April to the Bills. "Taylor's got the bloodline," said one scout, referring to the fact that his father, Robert, was a silver medalist in the 100 meters and helped the U.S. 400-meter relay team win the gold at the 1972 Olympics. "I would have taken him over Burris last year. He's a tremendous athlete.'

Another junior who likely will come out early is Ohio State's Korey Stringer, a massive (6-6. 310) offensive tackle who amazed onlookers last year with his strength off the line. He and Dan Wilkinson, the No. 1 pick in '94, became the first Buckeyes to win All-America as sophomores since 1979.

Another big offensive lineman who has turned the heads of scouts is Pitt's Reuben Brown, a 6-4, 305-pound tackle who recorded 40 "pancake" blocks last year alone.



Steve McNair

If there's a surprise, or sleeper pick, in next vear's draft, it could be linebacker Bryan Schwartz, who plays at Division II Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. Some scouts have had trouble finding him, ending up at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. When they did locate him, they discovered Schwartz is a premed student who runs a 4.8 40, is a standout basketball player, and has a 30-inch vertical leap. He had 128 tackles, eight of them for losses, last year and now has 313 tackles for his career. Another unknown player who could vault into the limelight next season is Southeast Missouri State running back Kelvin Anderson, A strong but short (5-7) runner, he has great speed (4.4) and one scout called him "the poor man's Barry Sanders.

It'll be no surprise to see Georgia quarterback Eric Zeier in the NFL draft. He threw for 3,525 yards and 24 touchdowns in '93 with only seven interceptions. Scouts are concerned with his lack of size (6-1), but say he reads defenses well and has a healthy arm.

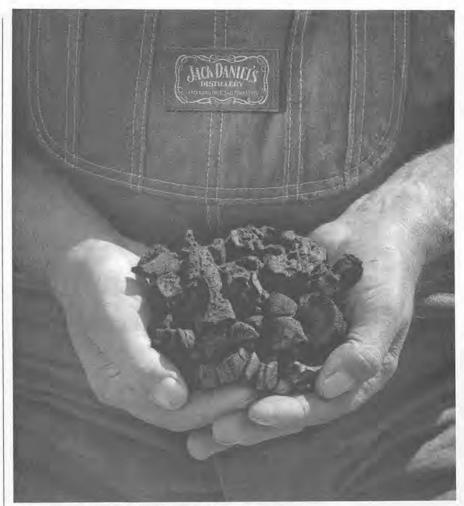
Colorado wide receiver Michael Westbrook's statistics mysteriously dropped last vear and one scout thinks it was because the Buffaloes forgot him. Westbrook had a schoolrecord 76 catches for 1,060 yards as a sophomore, then caught only 33 for 490 last season. "I put him up there with Stokes," the scout said. "You can flip a coin between them. I don't know why they didn't throw him the ball more last year. I guess they were going to Charlie Johnson [first-round pick by the Steelers]. But I thought Westbrook was way better than Johnson. He can run.

Texas A&M was loaded with running backs a year ago. Greg Hill went in the first round to the Kansas City Chiefs and freshman Leeland McElroy doubled as the nation's best kickoffreturn man (39.3-yard average). But scouts say Rodney Thomas, who led the Aggies with 996 yards rushing, is as good as any of them. "He's a straight-line guy with good speed," one scout said. "He'll go high next year.

Florida State linebacker Derrick Brooks is a vicious hitter who some thought was coming out last spring. Scouts are concerned with his height (6-1) and an injury problem last season, but are wowed by his big-play ability. Through the Seminoles' first five games in 1993, Brooks himself outscored all five FSU opponents (18-14)

Two personnel directors who scouted UCLA thought Carl Greenwood was a better defensive back than his teammate Marvin Goodwin, who went in the fifth round to the Philadelphia Eagles in April. Greenwood runs a 4.6 and hits like a truck

Among other likely high-round picks, Notre Dame running back Lee Becton is an elusive runner who reminds some scouts of Amp Lee. the 49er running back who was a secondround pick in 1992; Texas A&M linebacker Antonio Armstrong (formerly Antonio Shorter), who gave Lombardi Award winner Aaron Taylor (first-round pick by Green Bay) more than he could handle in the Cotton Bowl when Armstrong won Defensive MVP after registering three sacks; and North Carolina State wide receiver Eddie Goines, who averaged 19.4 yards per catch last season.



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Passing Judgments

Opinions, observations, and predictions on issues big and small

by GLEN MACNOW

It used to be easy to keep track of the NFL. Year after year, Warren Moon was taking snaps in Houston, Washington's Posse was challenging for the Super Bowl, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were finishing in last place. And now? Now there's free agency and the salary cap and no more stability in profootball. These days, the Moon is over Minnesota, the Posse is spread across the entire NFL, and the Bucs are still in the basement. At least some things never change.

How is anyone to keep up? The NFL comprises 28 coaches and 1,500 players-each of whom seemed to switch clubs this offseason. Cornerback Mark Collins, a three-time all-pro and one-time Super Bowl hero, played

The Best Moves:

1. Warren Moon goes from Houston to Minnesota. Sure, he's 38 years old and about as mobile as a filing cabinet. But Moon still can launch them, and he's desperate to get to a Super Bowl. The Vikes won nine games last season platooning Sean Salisbury and a used-up Jim McMahon. Moon could be the guy to get them to the next level.

2. Eric Kramer goes from Detroit to Chicago. He got too much money (\$2.7 million a year), but Kramer is a winner. Plus, he's the kind of guy who'll stay in the game even with a bashed-in nose and some mangled fingers. That style plays well in Chicago.

3. Jeff George goes from Indianapolis to Atlanta. O.K., it's a risk. He's a fifth-year player who has battled with coaches, fans, and teammates. But take George away from the magnifying glass of his hometown and give him a fresh start on a club with a solid line and

speedy receivers and, well, we think it's a for-

mula for success.

The Worst Moves:

1. Scott Mitchell goes from Miami to Detroit. Did we miss something here? The young lefty performed well in four games last season, played eight games overall, and the Lions handed him a three-year deal worth \$11 million. It includes a \$5 million signing bonus that several observers deemed "insane." We'd have to agree.

2. Bubby Brister goes from Philadelphia to Philadelphia. Hmm, he turned down \$3.8 million for two years to start in New Orleans, only to watch the Saints sign Everett instead. So the Bubster is still an Eagle, making \$1 million per year less and backing up Randall Cunningham. Who gave him his career advice, Chevy Chase?

3. Harbaugh goes from Chicago to Indianapolis. In itself, not a bad move for the Colts. who needed someone other than George. But Indy used Harbaugh as an excuse for not taking Shuler or Trent Dilfer in the draft. Three years down the road, that will rank as a devastating blunder.

What to Look for in '94

1. General managers will carp about the cap. It was the owners, you recall, who injected a salary ceiling into the basic agreement. But while players seem content to live with the limits, the GMs are whining like the cast of Seinfeld about how the constraints keep them

Eric Kramer



Scott Mitchell



Warren Moon

eight years for the Giants. Do you know where he plays now? Neither did we, until we looked it up (Kansas City). Steve Bono? For years he was San Francisco's reliable backup quarterback. No longer. Last we checked, Bono was recording another duet with Frank Sinatra It's tougher and tougher to be a fan. We don't even know where to tune the television dial anymore to pull in John Madden. All that said, we'll try to tear through the turf to lay out

a few basic truths. These are our passing

judgments on issues, great and small, facing

Trading Places

NFL quarterbacks didn't play the market so

much as they played musical chairs this off-

season. Let's see now, Chicago dumped Jim

Harbaugh, who went to Indianapolis, which

sent Jeff George to Atlanta, which lost free

agent Chris Miller to the Rams, who let Jim

Everett skip to New Orleans, which showed no

resistance when Steve Walsh packed for Chi-

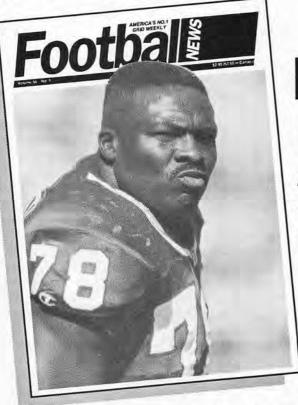
cago. A perfect circle. In all, more than 20

quarterbacks swapped jerseys since the Su-

per Bowl, including 10 of last year's starters.

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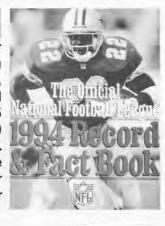
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Passing Judgments ...

from doing their jobs. Hey, guys, shut up and tween the two Meadowlands crowds? Age, game seems faithful to anything. How do fans count your profits!

2. Game-program sales will break records in Washington. Let's see now, who's left from that perennial powerhouse? Not Charles Mann or Joe Jacoby. Not Jeff Bostic or Mark Rypien. Not the legendary Posse, with Art Monk and Ricky Sanders following Gary Clark onto new trails. The new ace of the receiving corps (corpse?) is Henry Ellard. All you need to know about the 'Skins is that William Hinchcliff of New Zealand and Augustin Olobia of Nigeria both have a shot to make it as receivers. No, we never heard of them either.

3. Running back Lewis Tillman, formerly of the Giants, will prove to be the free-agent steal of the year. Tillman broke all of Walter Payton's rushing records at Jackson State. He won't be breaking Payton's records in Chicago, but we

foresee a 1,000-yard season.

4. Owner Jerry Jones and coach Barry Switzer will come to be regarded by Cowboys fans as the walking embodiments of Jed Clampett and Jethro Bodine. We don't expect a total collapse in Big D, more like something in the 10-6 realm. For folks in Dallas, that's panic time. Especially when Jimmy Johnson is smearing on the suntan lotion down in Florida.

5. Pittsburgh wide receiver Charles Johnson will be the runaway Rookie of the Year. This guy is a fascinating story: horrible childhood, attempted suicide as a teen, moved into a high school classmate's home where he flourished as a person and a player. He's fast, athletic, and competitive and we project him to catch 60 passes for 1,000-plus yards. Certainly, we're pulling for the kid. On defense, it's tough to bypass Cincinnati's Big Daddy Wilkinson as the top newcomer, but we'll go with Antonio Langham, the playmaking cornerback drafted by the Browns.

Jimmy Johnson



class, knowledge of the game, and about 75 IQ points per person.

.....

Stadiums: Best-Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami; Soldier Field, Chicago; Lambeau Field, Green Bay (built for \$960,000 in 1957-less than the annual salary of a pulling guard these days). Worst-Houston Astrodome (the oldest dome is the shabbiest); Los Angeles Coliseum (more muggings in the parking lot than on the field); Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia (the turf shreds more knees than any cheap-shot artist ever did).

Football Expendables

1. The rising number of insolent players. Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe is an incredible talent. But his surly behavior besmirches his on-field luster.

2. Monosyllabic Browns coach Bill Belichick. True story: Once, a writer requested, Bill, can I ask you three questions?" With an icy glare, the grumpy one responded, "That's one. You've got two to go.'

3. Come to think of it, we can live without any head coach who regards football as brain surgery. The Saints' Jim Mora is fond of telling reporters, "You guys will never understand the game." If that's the case, how is the average fan supposed to relate to it?

4. Draftniks like Mel Kiper Jr. and slickedback purveyors of misinformation like Fred Edelstein. If these guys are such insiders, how come they're always seen dining alone? Come to think of it, would you share a table with either one?

5. Eagles skinflint owner Norman Braman. Oh, yeah, he's gone now. Sold the franchise to Jeff Lurie, a Hollywood producer. Lurie, Lurie, hallelujah!

What We Miss in the NFL

1. Joe Gibbs, Jimmy Johnson, Bill Walsh, Mike Ditka. How is it possible that the men who won nine of the past 13 Super Bowls are out fishing or driving race cars or whatever, while failed legacy David Shula remains employed in pro football?

2. L.T. Initials will suffice here. We miss him already. L.T.'s intensity, desire, and vigor made him the greatest defensive player in NFL history (and you can save your cards and letters, Dick Butkus fans).

3. Loyalty. Sure, it was a one-way street back when the owners regarded players as indentured servants. But now, nobody in the

gain anything when a civic treasure like Clyde Simmons up and leaves Philadelphia for division-rival Arizona?

4. CBS's coverage. Nothing against the Fox network, which loaded Madden, Bradshaw, Summerall, and the others into a moving van and drove them to a new studio. It's just that, for our money, no network ever covered any sport as well as CBS covered football. A Sunday double-header, including pre- and postgame shows, provided seven-plus hours of excellence on the tube. We still get mistyeyed thinking of the days when Brent Musburger used to belt out, "You are looking live at Texas Stadium."

5. Papa Bear Halas. Yes, he's passed on, but to us he represents every old-time owner who understood the sport. How many can you say that about now? Jerry Jones? A wannabe.

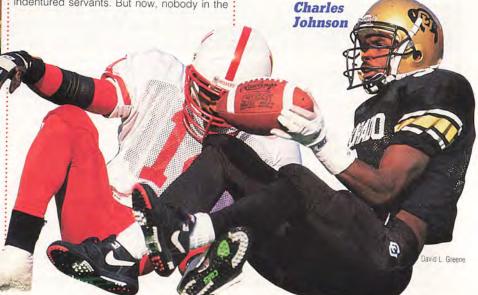
Antonio Langham



NFL Bests and Worsts

Helmets: Best-Rams, Cowboys, Seahawks. But just wait until next year when the Carolina Panthers steal the title. Worst-Browns, Redskins, Buccaneers (Sam Wyche is right, it's time to lose the sissy swashbuckler with the feather in his hat).

Fans: Best-Broncos, Giants, Redskins (We like "Hail to the Redskins." Makes it like a college crowd.) Worst-Lions, Jets, Cowboys (Sure they're showing up now. But where were they in the lean years?) The difference be-



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Field Goal: 3 pts Extra Point: 1 pt Extra Point: 2 pts

Defensive Team Points

TD Scored: 6 pts Safety: 2 pts Interceptions: 1 pt

Tiebreakers

- 1. Quarterbacks Points
- 2. Running Backs Points
- 3. Receivers Points
- 4. Kickers Points
- 5. Defensive Team Points

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AND TWO DEFENSIVE TEAMS.

CIRCLE O	NE PLA	YER FROM	M EACH OF THE 16 GRO	OUPS (POINTS	ARE FIGURED FROM 1993	STATISTIC	S) Al
GROUP 1 QB	TEAM	PTS	GROUP 5 REC	TEAM PTS	GROUP 9 RB	TEAM	PTS
1 J. ELWAY 2 B. FAVRE 3 J. HOSTETLER 4 W. MOON 5 S. YOUNG	DEN GB LAR MIN SF	326.4 272.2 263.3 285.9 387.8	21 C. CARTER 22 A. MILLER 23 H. MOORE 24 R. PROEHL 25 S. SHARPE	MIN 161.1 DEN 158.2 DET 129.8 PHO 133.8 DEN 153.5	41 M. ALLEN 42 J. BETTIS 43 E. SMITH 44 T. THOMAS 45 R. WATTERS	DAL 2. BUF 20	90.2 96.5 50.0 06.2 93.6
GROUP 2 QB			GROUP 6 REC		GROUP 10 RB		
6 T. AIKMAN 7 R. CUNNINGHAM 8 B. ESIASON 9 J. KELLY 10 D. MARINO	DAL PHI NY) BUF MIA	226.1 81.2 251.2 253.6 102.2	26 B. BLADES 27 M. JACKSON 28 M. PRITCHARD 29 A. REED 30 J. TAYLOR	SEA 117.7 CLE 124.7 DEN 116.0 BUF 123.5 SF 127.3	46 G. BROWN 47 B. FOSTER 48 R. HAMPTON 49 L. RUSSELL 50 B. SANDERS	PIT 1- NYG 1: NE 1:	72.2 47.0 58.7 76.0 50.0
GROUP 3 QB			GROUP 7 REC		GROUP 11 RB		
11 D. BLEDSOE 12 C. ERICKSON 13 R. MIRER 14 J. MONTANA 15 N. O'DONNELL	NE TB SEA KC PIT	198.0 239.8 207.7 164.1 223.5	31 A. CARTER 32 E. GIVINS 33 A. HARPER 34 H. JEFFERIES 35 E. MARTIN	MIN 109.3 HOU 114.6 DAL 109.5 HOU 111.2 NO 113.0	51 E. BENNETT 52 J. JOHNSON 53 T. KIRBY 54 R. MOORE 55 H. WALKER	NYJ 1 MIA 1 PHO 1	60.7 70.2 62.4 58.4 58.9
GROUP 4 REC			GROUP 8 REC		GROUP 12 RB		_
16 T. BROWN 17 M. IRVIN 18 J. RICE 19 A. RISON 20 S. SHARPE	LAR DAL SF ATL GB	166.7 175.6 253.2 214.2 194.2	38 G. CLARK 37 M. HAYNES 38 M. INGRAM 39 C. JOHNSON 40 C. PICKENS	PHO 105.6 NO 101.8 MIA 106.7 PIT ROOKIE CIN 92.0	56 R. BERNSTINE 57 R. BROOKS 58 K. BYARS 59 M. FALK 60 N. MEANS	WASH 1 MIA 1 IND RO	24.6

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To receive a copy of the official rules and team selection entry form, void of all services, no

purchase necessary, send a lettersize, self-addressed stamped envelope to the above address.

with the National Football League. Entrants must be 18 or older to participate.

GROUP 11 RB	
51 E. BENNETT	GB 160.7
52 J. JOHNSON	NYJ 170.2
53 T. KIRBY	MIA 162.4
54 R. MOORE	PHO 158.4
55 H. WALKER	PHI 158.9
GROUP 12 RB 56 R. BERNSTINE 57 R. BROOKS 58 K. BYARS 59 M. FALK 60 N. MEANS	DEN 142.8 WASH 142.9 MIA 124.6 IND ROOKIE SD 118.4

GROUP 13 KICKER	TEAM	PTS
61 J. CARNEY	SD	124.0
62 A. DELGRECO	HOU	126.0
63 J. HANSON	DET	130.0
64 C. JACKE	GB	128.0
65 J. JÁEGER	LAR	132.0
GROUP 14 KICKER		
66 C. ANDERSON	PIT	116.0

GROUP 14 KICKER		
66 G. ANDERSON	PIT	116.0
67 M. ANDERSON	NO	117.0
68 I. ELAM	DEN	119.0
69 N. JOHNSON	ATL	112.0
70 E. MURRAY	DAL	122.0

GROUP 15 DEFE	NSIVE TEAMS
71 BILLS	72 BENGALS
73 BROWNS	74 BRONCOS
75 OILERS	76 COLTS
77 CHIEFS	78 RAIDERS
79 DOLPHINS	80 PATRIOTS
81 JETS	82 STEELERS
83 CHARGERS	84 SEAHAWKS

GROUP 16 DEFENSIVE TEAMS

85	FALCONS	86	BEARS
87	COWBOYS	88	LIONS
89	PACKERS	90	RAMS
91	VIKINGS	92	SAINTS
93	GIANTS	94	EAGLES
95	CARDINAL5	96	49ERS
97	BUCCANEERS	98	REDSKINS

SSPF

YOU WISH OFTEN

Passing Judgments

tiere? A chorus girl. Tom Benson? A car dealer. The new breed of NFL chieftains can tell you lots about merchandising and depreciation and developing foreign markets, but most couldn't diagram a draw play if they just watched one being run.



Robert Rogers

David Palmer

6. Mad Stork Hendricks, Bronko Nagurski, Crazy Legs Hirsch, Night Train Lane, Concrete Bednarik, Mean Joe Greene. We miss these stars. But just as much, we miss their colorful nicknames. There's a void now, and "Thurmanator" Thomas just isn't going to fill it. We're rooting big time for Big Daddy.

Great Anonymous Role Players:

Best Backup Quarterback: Frank Reich. Buffalo. He'll always be remembered for engineering the greatest comeback in NFL history (32 points), but Reich is more than that. He's a team leader and clutch performer. He's a noncomplainer who could probably have had a real career playing elsewhere. Oh, by the way, he had the highest ranking among the 61 NFL quarterbacks who threw at least 10 passes in 1993

Best Fullback: Daryl Johnston, Dallas. The Moose lugged the ball just 24 times last season, but he opened the hole on most of Emmitt Smith's 283 carries. In the '90s-with brutes like Jimmy Brown and Cookie Gilchrist just distant memories-a fullback's role is to block and receive. Johnston (50 catches) does both as well as anyone now at the position.

Best Third-Down Back: Keith Byars, Miami. You need an eight-yard reception? He'll get you nine. You need a three-yard run? He'll break the plane. He's a punishing blocker and a clutch performer. We'll take him.

Best Special-Teams Player: Elbert Shelley, Atlanta. He's a former running back who's surprisingly athletic. Many players see special kick-coverage guy very seriously. He's stolen this title from Buffalo's Steve Tasker.

Best Clutch Punter: Jeff Feagles, Phoenix. His per-kick average for the Eagles last season (40.0 vards) ranked 25th in the NFL. But Feagles plopped 31 punts out of bounds inside the 20, the most in the league. And opponents returned just 42 percent of his kicks.

Top Questions for 1994

1. Will any NFL coach use the two-point conversion?

Coaches are downright meek when it comes to tough decisions. Some get the sweats choosing between mustard and mayo. So logic suggests most will eschew the two-pointer in favor of the safe (and boring) PAT kick. But the gutsy leaders will go for the challenge of grabbing another point. Our General Patton is Minnesota's Dennis Green, who has rookie receiver David Palmer at his disposal. The versatile Palmer took an occasional turn at quarterback for Alabama last year and even started a game there. He gives the Vikings a quick, explosive option threat from the 2-yard line on two-point tries.

2. Who's auditioning for the quarterback jobs in Jacksonville and Carolina?

About 40 players deemed themselves NFL starters last year, only to run into a job shortage. So this season begins with the likes of Bernie Kosar and Jim McMahon schlepping clipboards and avoiding the heavy work. Next year, of course, the Jaguars and Panthers will join up, presenting two new spots for starters. Who will get them? Early to say, of course, but our best guesses are John Friesz (who will take the hits in RFK Stadium for now until No. 1 draft pick Heath Shuler is deemed ready) and the Eagles' Brister (who heard his own player personnel director, John Wooten, describe him in the spring as "the perfect expansion team quarterback").

3. Who will be the surprise team of '94?

Last season it was the Lions, who parlayed a fifth-place schedule into a 10-6 record. In 1992, it was the Chargers, who used their fifthplace schedule to go 11-5. Note a pattern

Mike McCaskey? A pretty boy. Georgia Fron- : teams as a chore. Shelley takes his job as a . here? We do, so we'll pick Seattle as this season's quick riser. The Seahawks get to play five games against other last-place clubs. They collected two great Bills (tackle Howard Ballard and cornerback Nate Odomes) as free agents, and drafted stud defensive end Sam Adams to take pressure off Cortez Kennedy. If second-year quarterback Rick Mirer develops as everyone thinks he will, the Seahawks should improve-not to the Super Bowl, mind you, but to about 10-6.

4. Who will be the first coach fired?

A year ago, remarkably, no coach was axed by midseason. No such luck this time. By our count, at least six NFL head men enter September walking a narrow ledge that a few seem bound to slip off by November. Our best bet: Indianapolis's Ted Marchibroda. At 63. Marchibroda enters the season with retread Harbaugh at quarterback and a squad that's highly dependent on rookies or guys coming back from serious injuries. Problem is, he's got to win now. The Irsays, owner Bob and general manager Ted, aren't exactly known for calm patience.

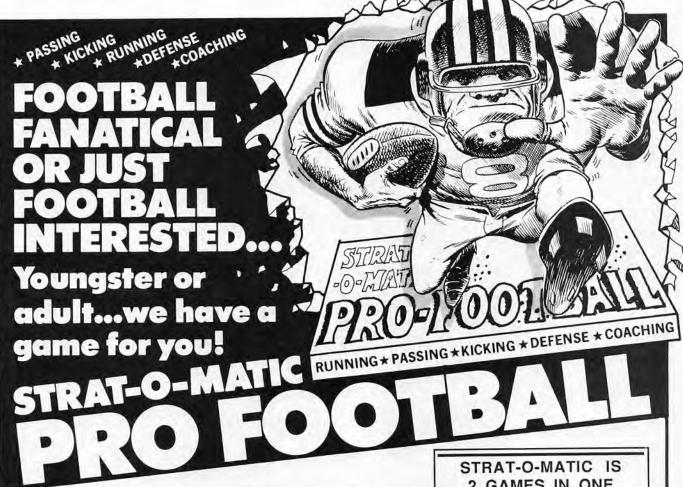
Rick Mirer



Al Messerschmidt

Thurman Thomas





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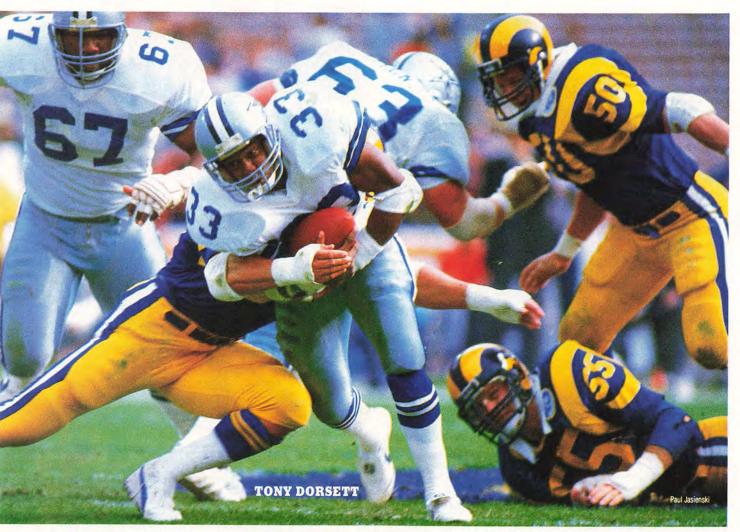
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HALL OF FAME

by JIM O'BRIEN

They come to Canton, Ohio each summer to be celebrated during what former National Football League commissioner Pete Rozelle referred to as "pro football's greatest weekend." They come to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, the greatest accolade their sport has to offer. The overflowing crowd fills the hillside and almost every available spot leading up to the steps of the Hall of Fame, and passersby on the highway often honk their car horns to signal their best wishes for the newest inductees. Fans often wear their team colors, and call out to their favorites.

Each player is introduced by someone special in his life, typically a coach or owner—or in the case of Walter Payton of the Chicago Bears in 1993, by his son. Then the player comes to the podium to express his feelings, and usually pays tribute to the people who helped fashion his football career. It's sentimental stuff, sprinkled heavily with nostalgia, sometimes moving, sad, humorous reflections. This summer the induction ceremonies begin at 10 A.M. on July 30 and, as always, are free to the public.

The class of 1994 is a good one: Tony Dorsett and Randy White of the Dallas Cowboys,

Leroy Kelly of the Cleveland Browns, Jimmy Johnson of the San Francisco 49ers, Jackie Smith of the St. Louis Cardinals, and Bud Grant, coach of the Minnesota Vikings.

RANDY WHITE

Honors have always came quickly for White and Dorsett, former teammates in Dallas. Both were inducted into the Hall of Fame in their first year of eligibility.

White was an All-America at the University of Maryland (one of the few schools to recruit him) and won the Lombardi Award and the Outland Trophy, the linemen's answer to the Heisman Trophy. He was a first-round pick in the 1975 draft, but the Cowboys weren't sure what they had when they first got him. Gil Brandt, the team's player personnel director, envisioned White as the second coming of Dick Butkus, a dominating linebacker of that era. "Here was this guy who weighed [at the time] 240 pounds, big and strong, who could run a 4.7 40," Brandt recalled. "You hear about guys like that. But you just don't see them very often."

White was the real thing all right, but as a lineman, not a linebacker. He was happy to

get back into the front, in the weakside slot with the "Doomsday Defense" at Dallas. "It was just like somebody took the handcuffs off and I could go play," he said. The Cowboys prided themselves on playing within a system, but White was so good that he was given the freedom to play his own game, when the opportunity presented itself. "Randy's performances range anywhere from spectacular to spectacular," his coach, the normally reserved Tom Landry, once said.

The Cowboys, one of the most celebrated and popular teams in recent pro football history—indeed "America's Team"—featured such players as Roger Staubach, Bob Lilly, Drew Pearson, Harvey Martin, Ed "Too Tall" Jones, Charlie Waters, and Dorsett wearing the silver and blue uniforms. White, their 6-4, 265-pound tackle, was one of the prime reasons for their long-running success.

TONY DORSETT

When Johnny Majors became the head coach at the University of Pittsburgh in 1973, the first recruit he visited was Dorsett. At that time, Dorsett was about 5-10 and 160 pounds, and some thought him too small for big-time college football. He came from an area in western Pennsylvania that had produced tough players: Hall of Famers Mike Ditka and

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Cowboys	8 Aikman	Falcons	3 Hebert
Cowboys	88 Irvin	49ers	46 McDonald
Cowboys	22 Smith	49ers	80 Rice
Broncos	7 Elway	49ers	32 Watters
Broncos	84 Sharpe	49ers	8 Young
Bills	12 Kelly	Colts	90 Emtman
Bills	78 B. Smith	Colts	* Faulk
Bills	83 Reed	Packers	84 Sharpe
Bills	34 Thomas	Packers	92 White
Dolphins	13 Marino	Steelers	26 Woodson
Dolphins	88 Jackson	Steelers	33 Hoge
Browns	21 Metcalf	Steelers	29 Foster
Oilers	79 Childress	Chiefs	58 Thomas
Oilers	81 Givens	Chiefs	19 Montana
Eagles	12 Cunningham	Lions	20 B. Sanders
Eagles	21 Allen	Lions	56 Swilling
Eagles	34 Walker	Lions	84 Moore
Redskins	80 Howard	Chargers	55 Seau
Redskins	* Shuler	Patriots	11 Bledsoe
Jets	85 Moore	Cardinals	7 Buerlein
Jets	7 Esiason	Cardinals	23 Hearst
Jets	42 Lott	Seahawks	96 Kennedy
Bears	35 Anderson	Seahawks	3 Mirer
Bears	80 Conway	Bucs	* Dilfer
Giants	56 Taylor	Bengals	* Wilkinson
Giants	27 Hampton	Rams	36 Bettis
Vikings	81 Carter	Rams	90 Gilbert
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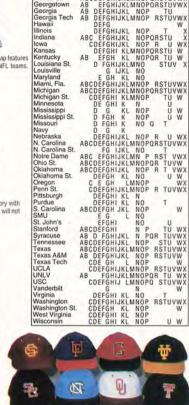
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Joe Namath, as well as Joe Walton and Babe Parilli, among others.

Dorsett was special. He would add an inch and about 25 pounds somewhere along the way, and he rewrote the college record book with his hard-slashing running. He became the first college back to rush for at least 1,000 in each of his four seasons and the first to gain more than 1,500 yards in three of them. As a senior, he ran for 1,948 (raising his career total to an NCAA-record 6,082 yards) and 21 touchdowns and won the Heisman Trophy while leading Pitt to a national championship. He had that speed and he could cut.

The Cowboys wanted him badly. But so did the Seattle Seahawks, in only their second season of operation, who had the first pick in the 1977 draft. The Cowboys sent the Seahawks their first-round pick (No. 24) and three second-round choices, the kind of package that would help the Seahawks stock a fledgling team. It was a risk, but one that paid off handsomely for the Cowboys. They had traded up in the past to land the likes of great defensive linemen such as Lilly, Jones, and White, and this time they landed a unique and elusive runner to spark their offense.

Dorsett became the first player ever to gain more than 1,000 yards in each of his first five pro seasons. He had 1,000-yard efforts eight times in nine years, his only miss coming in the strike-shortened 1982 season. Overall, he played 11 seasons with the Cowboys and a final one with the Denver Broncos, finishing with 12,739 yards rushing and 16,326 total yards. He passed Jim Brown in both categories and ranked second only to Walter Payton at the time of his retirement.

"When I leaf through the pages of my scrapbook someday," declared Dorsett, "I can smile about what I have done."

JACKIE SMITH

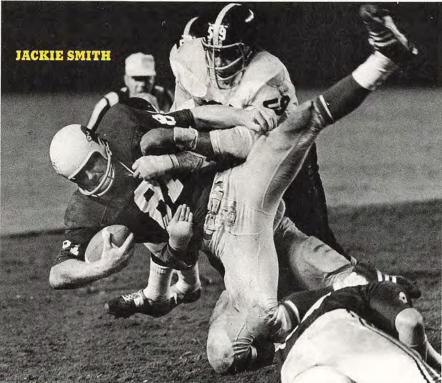
He was the prototype tight end of his day, in the same mold as Ditka. He starred for 15 years with the St. Louis Cardinals (1963 to

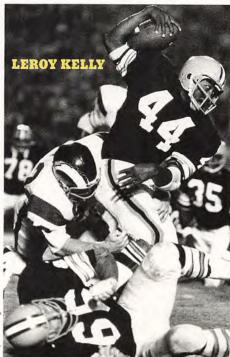
1977) and finished with one season in Dallas. Only one pass was ever thrown to him during his time with the Cowboys, and it came in Super Bowl XIII against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Smith was wide open in the end zone but dropped a ball thrown to him by Staubach. It became the most celebrated play in Smith's career because the Cardinals never got much national TV attention. That was unfortunate, for Smith was an outstanding NFL receiver and all-round performer.

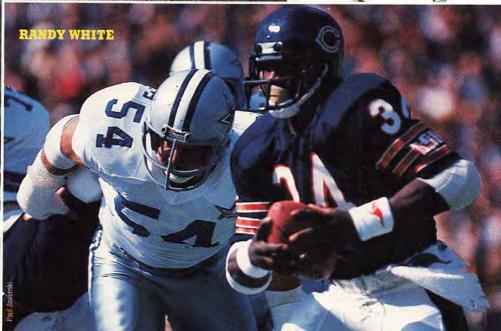
His story is an inspirational one. In high school, he was often injured or ill and played only five games. He starred on the track team as a hurdler, however, and was offered a half scholarship to Northwestern Louisiana. If he agreed to play football, he could get the other

half. So he did. He was 6-4 and 235 pounds with 4.7 speed in the 40, as good as many wide receivers, but didn't show much in the way of statistics. He was taken on the 10th round of the 1963 draft by the Cardinals.

When he retired from pro football after the 1978 season, Smith ranked as the No. 1 tight end in NFL history, with 480 receptions for 7,918 yards and 40 touchdowns. His best season was 1967, when he caught 56 passes for 1,205 yards and nine TDs and was named to the all-NFL team. He caught 40 or more passes seven times and was selected to play in the Pro Bowl after five of those seasons. His 16.5-yard per-catch average was a testament to his speed and hard-running ability. He broke tackles. He was a punishing blocker, a







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fierce competitor, and even filled in as a kickreturner in emergencies.

"I never wanted to give up before I had to," said Smith, in explaining his unrelenting style. "[My] teammates were all out there working hard, and it was a great obligation to them to get every bit of yardage I could."

LEROY KELLY

This man had a tough act to follow. He's just glad he got the opportunity to follow Jim Brown when he did, a few years earlier than he might have if Brown had chosen to continue his pro football career. Brown was at the top of his game, gaining yardage faster than any other back in pro football history, when he retired in 1965 after nine seasons with the Cleveland Browns to pursue a movie career. It provided an opening for Kelly, a Morgan State alumnus who had carried the ball only 43 times in his first two pro seasons.

In his first season as a regular, Kelly came through in a big-time manner, averaging 5.5 yards on 209 carries for 1,141 yards and a league-leading 15 touchdowns. He won NFL rushing championships with 1,200-plus yards the next two years. In 1968, he led the NFL in scoring with 120 points on 20 touchdowns. Kelly's 10-year career stats are impressive, especially considering that was primarily on special teams in his first two seasons. He rushed 1,727 times for 7,274 yards and 74 touchdowns, had 2,281 yards and 13 TDs on 190 receptions, and added 990 yards and

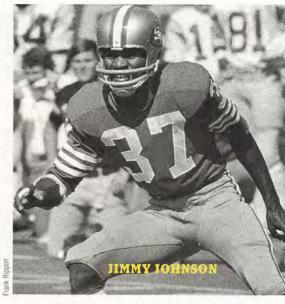
three touchdowns as a punt returner and 1,778 yards on kickoff returns to finish with a combined net total of 12,329 yards, ranking fourth in rushing and combined net yards at the time of his retirement.

Browns fans didn't think it would take long for Kelly to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame when he retired after the 1973 season, but it didn't happen until his 16th year of eligibility. At least he didn't have to wait that long to get his chance to carry the ball for the Browns. Said Kelly, "If Jim Brown had played a few more years—and he certainly could have done that—I might never have had the chance I had. All I ever wanted to do was to be Leroy Kelly and do the best job I could."

JIMMY JOHNSON

None of the new Hall of Famers can appreciate Kelly's comment any more than Jimmy Johnson. He, too, had a tough act to follow, right from the start of his athletic career. His older brother was Rafer Johnson, the 1960 Olympic decathlon champion, once hailed as "the world's greatest athlete." Jimmy Johnson's desire to succeed was spawned by the accomplishments of his older brother.

"I've got another brother who dropped out of sports because he got tired of having people tell him to follow in Rafer's footsteps." Jim recalled. "They gave me the same jazz. I didn't like it, either, but instead of letting it bug me, I decided to accept it as a challenge to see if I could make it on my own in sports."



With his election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the former 49ers defensive back has indeed made a name for himself.

Being Jimmy Johnson was pretty special, too. The captain of the football, basketball, and baseball teams in high school at Kingsburg, California, Johnson played wingback and defensive back at Santa Monica City College and then at UCLA. He was a big-play



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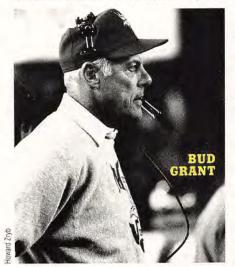
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performer as a rusher or receiver and was named the Bruins' best blocker and tackler. He was also an honor student his junior and senior years and became an outstanding track man with a 13.9 time in the high hurdles and a 25-foot long jump.

Johnson was one of the 49ers' three firstround draft picks in 1961. He was projected as a wide receiver in the 49ers' plans but suffered a broken wrist in practice for the college All-Star Game. He played with a cast on his hand, and couldn't catch a football very well,



so he was shifted to safety, where he had five interceptions as a rookie. He returned to offense in his second year, then switched again to defensive back, blossoming to the point where most quarterbacks simply avoided throwing into his area of coverage.

He didn't get named to the Hall of Fame until his 14th season of eligibility, but Johnson was used to waiting his turn for recognition. He was not named all-pro until 1969 and not selected to his first Pro Bowl until the following season. In his 16 years with the 49ers, however, he intercepted 47 passes, which he returned for 615 yards, both club records until they were broken by Ronnie Lott, a sure-fire future Hall of Famer.

BUD GRANT

He was clearly one of the premier coaches, but Bud Grant had to wait longer than he deserved to get voted into the Hall of Fame for one reason: While Minnesota was a dominant team over two decades, it failed four times to win a Super Bowl. His best quarterback, Fran Tarkenton, the famous "Purple People Eater" defensive line headed by Carl Eller and Alan Page, and many of the Vikings were shortchanged because they came up short in the Big One. It works both ways. The Pittsburgh Steelers won all four of their Super Bowl appearances and that stamped the team and its players for all-time greatness.

Grant always did it his way. He didn't believe in conducting a long training camp or in long workouts. He waited until the week before the first preseason game to call his team to practice. He shunned having a strength coach, though his teams were among the most physical in pro football. He wouldn't permit space heaters on the sidelines in the coldest weather. "Their attention should be on the field," he explained, "not worrying about where the heater is." His ice-blue eyes often appeared frozen on the sideline. He was a stoic figure in the fashion of the Dallas Cowboys' Tom Landry.

"To me, football is a game of controlled emotion," said Grant. "If the head coach panics or loses his poise, then his team follows. I've seen head coaches running up and down the sidelines yelling at officials or their players. They can't possibly know what is going on."

There is no denying that Grant is getting into the Hall of Fame on merit. In his 18 seasons as the coach, the Vikings won 168 games, including 10 playoff contests, placing him eighth all-time in the NFL record book. His teams were generally well-balanced and won 11 Central Division crowns, the National Football League championship in 1969, and NFC titles in 1973, 1974, and 1976. In addition, Grant had a great record as a coach in the Canadian Football League, where he won four Grey Cups.

Jim O'Brien is the author of two books about the glory days of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Doing It Right and Whatever It Takes.

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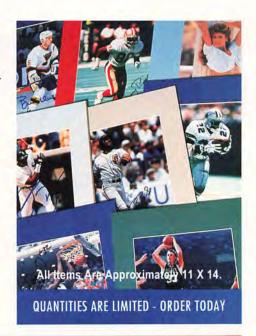
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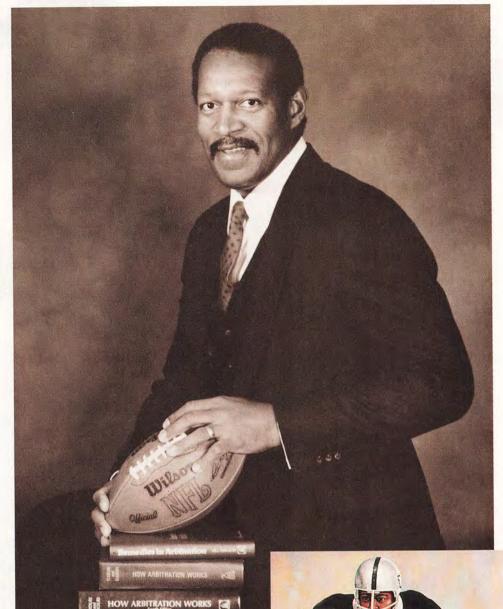
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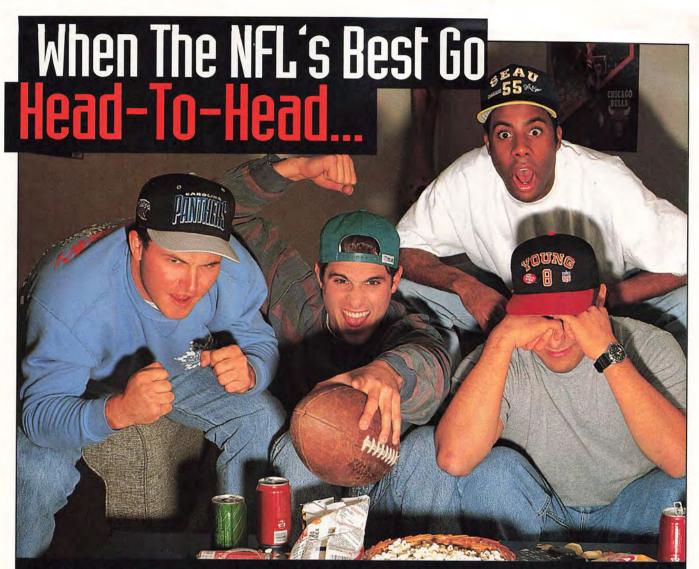
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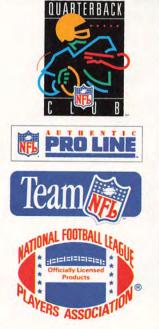
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Gene Upshaw #63 Executive Director, NFLPA



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Barry Sanders--What Makes This Guy Tick

By Tom Kowalski

arry Sanders was minding his own business, picking over the fruit at a local market when he was approached by a young man in his 20s.

"Hey, I know you," the young man said excitedly.

Sanders turned with a frown. He was preparing his practiced routine: "No, I'm sorry. You must be mistaken." Politely, firmly, and back to the fruit. Before Sanders could respond, the young man said, "I've played ball against you up at the school."

The frown melted. Sanders shook his hand and they talked hoops for several minutes, discussing the players and the daily pickup games at the community college gym. Basketball is Sanders' true passion. Given the choice, he once said he'd rather be the starting guard on the U.S.

Olympic Basketball team than go down as the

greatest running back ever.

The two men shooks hands again, saying they'd look forward to seeing each other again soon and parted ways, Sanders walked back to his fruit, the young man walked on air. He knew he had just been talking with Barry Sanders, arguably the best running back in the NFL, but he also knew— from Sanders' demeanor at the gym and his reaction to people who swooned over him— that Sanders would dismiss him with a halfhearted smile and a wave if the young man had recognized him as a football superstar instead of a guy who plays pickup ball.

Lions strong safety **William White**, one of Sanders' closest friends, was a passenger when Sanders was pulled over by the police. The officer looked at the driver's license and asked,

"Are you THE Barry Sanders?"

"Uh, no," Sanders said. He got the ticket.
"I'll say it's amazing and that I can't believe
he did that, but when you consider it's Barry
it's not surprising at all. That's the way he is,"
White said. "I don't know anybody else who
would've done that."

And how many 20-year-olds have blown off a



Barry Sanders cruises.

Tim Thompson Photo

dinner invitation with the leader of the free world? After winning the Heisman Trophy in 1988, Sanders turned down a White House invitation. Gotta study, he said.

So what makes this guy tick? What motivations could drive him through a disappointing high school career when his coach ignored him until the last half of his senior season when he set a city record for rushing yardage. What drove him through a frustrating college career that saw him play backup for two seasons before setting the NCAA's all-time single-season rushing record?

What makes this guy tick?

It obviously isn't fame. The young man in the market will tell you that. So will William White. So will the folks in his hometown of Wichita who threw a two-day Barry Sanders Celebration, only to have the honoree show up a day late.

It must be the money. Here's a kid, one of 11 by William and Shirley Sanders, raised in a one-story, three-bedroom home who bolted college early to grab NFL riches. His first contract was for \$5.9 million, including a \$2.1 million signing bonus. Sanders promptly donated \$210,000—

(Continued On Page 61)

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What Makes This Guy Tick

(Continued From Page 59)

it's called tithing— to his place of worship, the Paradise Baptist Church in Wichita.

OK, so maybe it's not the money.

It's got to be the ego. The record books. The burning desire to be the greatest running back ever. The glory.

In his rookie season, Sanders was 10 yards

short of passing Kansas City's Christian Okoye for the NFL rushing title.

Sanders, who amassed his total on 90 fewer carries, was easily going to pass Okoye in the fourth quarter of the season finale in Atlanta. But the Lions were routing the Falcons and Sanders went to the sideline. He told head coach Wayne Fontes it was only right that backup Tony Paige get some playing time.

"I don't want a record or a title for the sake of getting a record or title," Sanders said. "If it comes in the course of the season and winning

games, I'll take it."

OK, maybe it's something else, But what?

You know, some guys become athletes to get the girls. Sanders' social calendar is hardly empty, but he's no Casanova either. He plans to remain celibate until he gets married. He even cut a video with NBA star A.C. Green and other pro athletes to encourage youngsters to abstain from sex. Of course—and this is a real shocker—he refused to go on the "Donahue" show to promote the video.

"I'm not saying I'm a virgin or anything, but I've decided I'm not going to have sex with a woman until we get married," Sanders said.

Sanders comes from a deeply religious family and strongly adheres to the Baptist faith, so maybe that's it. Perhaps Sanders will promote his religion on the stage he's been granted as an NFL superstar. After all, a lot of athletes begin interviews with "I'd like to thank the Lord, Jesus Christ. . ." and a lot of players kneel down and say prayers in the end zone after scoring touchdowns. But Sanders has never done either one.

"Showing off," he says. "I don't know how sincere that stuff is."

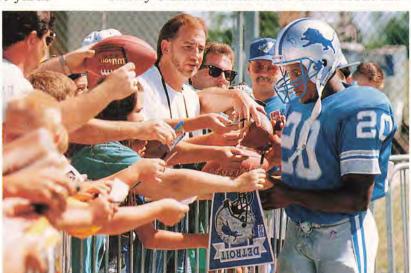
In fact, Sanders will not discuss his religion

unless he's asked about it.

Growing up, Sanders attended church every Sunday but didn't always follow the path of righteousness. He stole candy, got into fights in school, and was once arrested for trespassing. Not exactly a Dillinger-like crime wave, but Sanders was uncomfortable with himself.

"I had considered myself a Christian before that, but I was living a life contrary to what God wanted," Sanders said. "I became a Christian the summer before coming to the Lions (in 1989). I attended a Christian conference in Phoenix. I saw how hypocritical I'd been and that I had to get my life straight— to get straight with God."

Shirley Sanders doesn't care much about the



Barry Sanders recognizes fans.

Jose Juarez Photo

yardage her son gains or the touchdowns he scores. She wants him to be a good man, a good husband, a good father. That's how she raised him, how she raised all her children.

"I'm a lot like my mother. At least, I try to be," Sanders said. "She doesn't talk to hear herself talk. I've never seen her take a drink. I've never heard her curse. She's a Christian woman, a real one."

"I try to pattern myself after her. She has high standards. I try to live up to hers and I fail, but then most people do."

Perhaps, but the way Sanders has carried himself on and off the field, there's no denying

he's a superstar.

Not even to a young hoop player or a cop.

Then, while other first-round draft choices were buying up Beamers, Jags, and all the gold jewelry their thick necks could handle without falling over forward, Sanders purchased a supermarket.

"It was ready to shut down," Sanders said at the time. "For the neighborhood, it would've been a real blow. A lot of the people there have low incomes and would have trouble getting transportation to a new market if it closed. And there's a senior citizen's home a block or two away that really depends on it, too."

Shrewd, eh?

Of course, Sanders could easily make up any losses with all that endorsement money he has rolling in.

(Continued On Page 73)

Free Agency: A New Era in Football

By Frank Woschitz

ree agency is changing professional football as no other concept has affected it since television put the game in the living rooms of millions of fans more than 40 years ago.

The system of free agency will:

*allow long suffering fans of perennial losers to cheer for winners:

*give players who have spent most of their careers on the bench a chance for stardom;

*provide a pool of outstanding players who can make the expansion teams instantly competitive;

*popularize the game year around and compete with baseball's hot-stove league for off season publicity;

new horizons for television.

America's favorite professional sport with positive effects for fans, players, owners, and the game, itself.

These predictions are almost a sure thing for 1994, since they have already come true in the first year of transition from football as it has been for 74 years to the exciting 1993 season.

Cases in point: Green Bay fans were grumbling and almost rebellious in the fifth game of the 1993 season as the Packers squandered away a 30-7 lead to 30-27 with two minutes left in the game. The team that had been most active in the free agent market stood at one

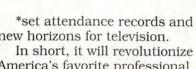
victory and three losses and faced virtual extinction from championship contention.

To compound the problem, Denver with John Elway in charge had possession at midfield. His last minute heroics are legendary, and he looked confident even though he faced a third down and 10 on the Packer 43vard line.

In an instant the momentum changed as 1993's most famous (and expensive) free agent.

Reggie White. fought off blockers to sack Elway for 8 and 14-yard losses on successive plays to clinch the victory.

So excited were the fans that 5,000 refused to leave,



3) The Owner 4) The Game

2) The Player

I) The Fan

for:

5) All of the Above

Test Your Sports Acumen

Free Agency is good

screaming "Reggie, Reggie, Reggie" until Reggie took the microphone and spoke to them.

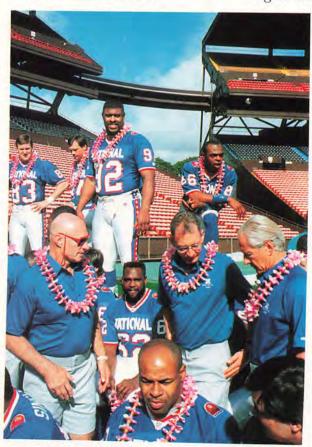
That game was the turning point as the Packers went on to the playoffs for the first time since 1982.

Free Agency also benefited the sophisticated fans in New York City as the Giants rebounded from a disastrous season in 1992 to the playoffs under new coach Dan Reeves and veteran quarterback Phil Simms.

The Giants avoided the quarterback controversy that had plagued them since their last Super Bowl win in 1990 as Jeff Hostetler opted for free agency and moved to the Los Angeles Raiders, giving Simms the opportunity. He threw for 3,038 yards and ranked third in the NFC passing statistics. He showed no ill effects from a year of exile on the bench.

The domino effect continued as Hostetler solved the Raider's quarterback problem and led them back to the playoffs after a losing '92 season. Hostetler's passes gained 3,242 and accounted for 14 touchdowns.

It was almost a case of oneupmanship all season long. In the opening game Hostetler completed 18 of his 19 passes as the Raiders routed the Vikings. Then it was Simms' turn as he threw three touchdown passes in a 41-7 win over Washington in week 6 of the NFL. Two weeks later.



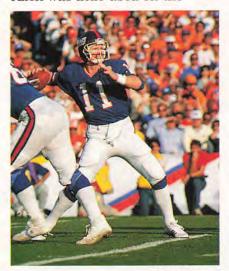
Reggie White (92) stands out at Pro Bowl



Hostetler passed for a Raider record 434 yards, while down the stretch Simms' passes resulted in narrow victories over Phoenix and Miami.

Neither Hostetler or Simms could have combined for those totals on a single team, and both could have been cut as aging stars. Instead their careers have taken on new life.

Another player who was rejuvenated because he got a chance to play was **Marcus Allen**. In **Al Davis'** dog house, Allen was little used on the



Phil Sims

Vernon Biever Photo

Raiders in 1992, but in 1993 he became an offensive powerhouse augmenting the passing of Joe Montana on the Kansas City Chiefs who advanced to the AFC championship game.

Allen gained 764 yards, scored 12 touchdowns, and made himself a valuable asset. In the previous season, he ran for just 164 yards and two touchdowns.

So, long suffering fans of losing teams and players relegated to the bench on previous teams love free agency.

Players' salaries have boomed too— reaching an average of \$727,000 in 1993. In four years the average salary has more than doubled.

Does the salary cap stifle teams' ability to sign winners? Not really. Many owners will spend less to get under the cap, but more owners will be forced to spend more because there is a minimum level that all teams must reach.

In fact, the highest salaried teams in 1991 would rank at the bottom for 1994. So players have a larger pot and it has been redistributed across the league.

How do the owners feel about free agency? Well, the winners under the old system will not be happy. The rest of the owners will profit, filling stadiums, feeding their egos, building a franchise.

Before, the only way to build was through the draft, but that was a slow process. The last place team—no. 28—has just one pick ahead of the previous Super Bowl winner. From that point on the losers were picking behin**d the** playoff teams.

In the era before free agency, only one player, defensive back **Norm Thompson**, moved through free agency. Trades were limited. Most teams shored up weaknesses by picking up castoffs.

In 1993, more than 120 veteran free agents changed teams, with similar results this year.

The new system with free agency, trades, and the draft, is preferable to the club owners, too. Buffalo's **Ralph Wilson** said, "The overall system is effective because you have a lot of different ways of building a club."

"Our new player system balances free agency with features to promote competitive balance," says NFL executive vice president for labor relations **Harold Henderson.** Let's hope so.

In the last 16 years competitive balance has been a myth. Just seven teams, or 25% of the total, have held Super Bowl titles. Dallas, Washington, and San Francisco have won 10 Super Bowls.

Teams making the playoffs shows similar dominance. Five teams have made the playoffs more than half the time since 1978 (16 years). Another six teams have edged into the playoffs half the time.

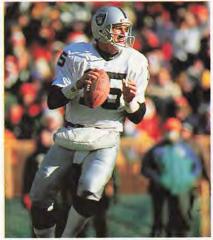
In baseball since 1978 (its heyday of free agency), 14 different teams have won the World Series. Only Toronto and Minnesota have repeated. Minnesota in the American League and Atlanta and Philadelphia in the National went from "worst to first" to win league pennants.

Labor peace finally has led to expansion. And the two new teams, Jacksonville and Charlotte, will have a much better chance to reach parity with some astute decisions on free agents available in 1995. The last two teams to enter the league in 1976, Seattle and Tampa, have been to the playoffs only four and three times, respectively. The new expansion teams will do much better than that.

Finally, free agency will give the game a real shot of adrenaline. Some critics had claimed that the game had grown tiresome, predictable, in need of change in rules, etc.

Free agency has caused more change than any tinkering with the rules and the astute fans realize this. Last season attendance records were set; more TV network bidding occurred, and plans are moving forward toward new leagues to satisfy the insatiable appetite of football fans.

The future is unlimited as the fans, the players, the owners, and the game, itself, move toward the 21st century and more spectacular growth.



Jeff Hostetler

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94





Year Of The Kicker

By Bob Carroll

early one out of every four points scored in the NFL in 1993 came on a field goal. Teams kicked nearly as many field goals (673) as they scored touchdowns by rushing and passing **combined** (722). And while fans decried the puny offenses or cheered the stonewall defenses that kept teams "settling" for three points at a time, they couldn't deny it was a spectacular year for placekickers.

Atlanta's **Norm Johnson**, winner of *Pro Football Weekly's* prestigious Golden Toe Trophy for 1993, missed exactly one field goal all season— a 37 yard attempt in week fifteen. Pittsburgh's **Gary Anderson** made 28 of 30 tries.

All over the league, accuracy was up. Twenty-four of the 27 men who qualified for the

'It's the mental factor," says Steelers' Gary Anderson.

championship by attempting ten or more field goals made good on at least two-thirds of their kicks. All of the qualifiers connected more than half their tries.

Once upon a time, anyone who could make 50 percent of his field goal attempts ranked among the elite of the league. In 1950, legendary placekicker **Lou "The Toe" Groza** was in his fifth year with the Cleveland Browns when he finally ended a season with an accuracy rate of better than 50 percent.

In 1971, when **Garo Yepremian** won the first
Golden Toe Trophy, he was
successful 70 percent of the
time. But last year, Atlanta's
Johnson rung the bell to the
tune of 96.3.

Have kickers gotten better? Johnson, who spent twelve





Lou Groza

seasons with Seattle before becoming a Falcon last year, suggests it's all in their heads. "It's an old cliche, but, in the case of placekickers, football really is 90 percent mental."

The Steelers' Anderson agrees that handling pressure is the key to great kicking. "It's the mental factor," he says. Everybody in the NFL is a very capable kicker, so what distinguishes guys are the mental aspects of the game. They are tough to define, but I think there are two of them: concentration and

confidence."

"I think I can make every kick I'm put on the field to make,"

Morten Andersen of the New Orleans
Saints says. "That's the way I approach it. I don't want to walk out there scared, intimidated, or tentative. You've got to be aggressive, focused, and locked in on every kick."

The necessity for complete concentration hasn't changed since Groza was banging them through the uprights for the Browns. "Every kick I ever made," says the now 70-year old Hall of Famer, "I just thought of the fundamentals: stance, approach, contact, and follow through."

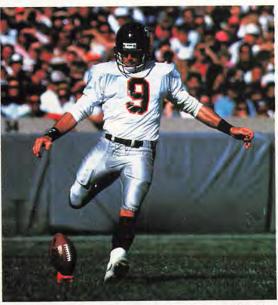
When he first started kicking, Groza actually laid a piece of tape down on the field as his imaginary line. "Then the NFL ruled that out as being a 'theatrical' device."

Jack Clary, author of PB: The Paul Brown Story, marvels at Groza's concentration. "Remember, he was a regular offensive tackle. So he'd be blocking on every down of a ten-play drive and then go back and kick a 35-yard field goal."

All told, The Toe kicked 264 three-pointers in 481 attempts, good for 1,608 points. When he retired in 1967, he was the all-time scoring leader, and only **George Blanda** and **Jan Stenerud** rank ahead of him today.

Groza, who is fiercely proud of being elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a

(Continued On Page 67)



Norm Johnson

Falcon's Photo

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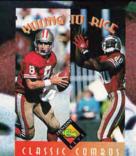
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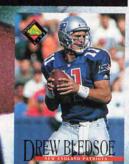
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Year Of The Kicker

(Continued From Page 65)

tackle instead of as a kicker, admits there were times when keeping his concentration was tough.

"We were playing in Detroit. I'm in the huddle waiting for the play to be called when here comes **Gil Mains** (Lions defensive tackle) and he tramps on my kicking foot. Stomps on it! Then he runs back to his side of the line chuckling. I met Gil a few years ago and we laughed about that. But at the time, it hurt!"

Groza feels the biggest difference between today's kickers and those of his era is that today's kickers are all specialists. "We had to be football players first and placekickers second."

Doak Walker, a triple-threat back with Detroit from 1950-55, joined Groza in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1986. He wore his regular shoes to run or pass, but when it came time to kick, he'd switch to a



The Zipper Shoe

special, flat-toed shoe equipped with a zipper so the change could be made quickly.

Groza was a "straightahead" kicker, meeting the ball with his famous toe. Soccerstyle kickers who approach the ball at an angle and kick it with their instep have taken over the NFL today, but Lou doesn't think the difference in techniques is that important.

He also feels that moderns have other advantages.

For example, the field has been narrowed. "They moved



Nick Lowery on board NCL Cruise Ship

Frank Woschitz Photo

in the hash marks to help the running game, but it also helped the kicking. Today, the kicks are almost always straight on. When we kicked, you could get some really extreme angles, especially on shorter kicks."

Groza notes that more than half the NFL fields last season were covered with artificial turf— a big plus for a placekicker. "The footing is better and there are no holes to step in. We played a lot of fields that were also used for baseball."

Seven current NFL stadiums boast indoor fields. **Jan Stenerud**, the only man elected to the Hall of Fame as a "pure" kicker, adds, "Kicking in the cold presents many problems. In Green Bay, the ball seemed frozen and hard. Only about two-thirds of the ball was visible in the stadium grass which was cut very long to preserve it against the rugged winter. Turf and indoor stadiums are ideal for kickers."

Groza is quick to give credit to today's kickers. Kansas City's **Nick Lowery** is a favorite, but "there are so many good ones." Morten Anderson isn't surprised that there are more good kickers today. "Athletes in general are getting bigger, stronger, and faster," he says. "And today's kids get better coaching earlier, train harder, and respond to the increased emphasis on the skill."

But surprisingly, the idea that NFL teams are "going for three" at a manic rate is an illusion. When Saints kicker Tom Dempsey set the all-time distance record with a monster 63-yard kick in 1970, games averaged 4.4 field goal attempts, and kickers leaguewide connected at a .594 rate. In 1993, the league averaged only 3.9 tries per game-yet there were 195 more field goals than in 1970. Yes, two more games have been added to schedules since 1970, but the main reason for the increase in three-pointers was 1993's spectacular accuracy rate of .780.

In the NFL's Year of the Kicker, every team had its Groza.

Bob Carroll is the author of 27 books on sports and the executive director of the Professional Football Researchers Association.

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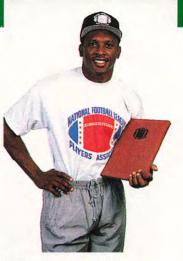
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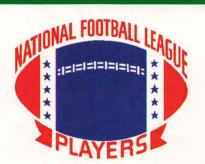
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Where Are They Now

By Gabriella Mazzucca

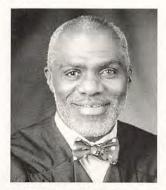
he lights fade and the fanfare dies. As a player walks off the field for the last time his mind reels with conflicting thoughts— "What happens next? Will I ever play again? Will anyone remember me tomorrow?"

The shift from the playing field to the business world is not always an easy one and many players have trouble making the transition.

Not all though. Some have broken through the stereotype and gone on to careers in very different fields.

If he had never had another achievement in his career, Alan Page, former DT for the Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears, would still be credited as the only lineman ever to be named the NFL's Most Valuable Player, an award he earned in 1971.

However, much more was in store for Page. During his 12 years in the NFL, the Hall of Famer won many awards.



Judge Alan Page

However his finest achievement came last year when Page, who has served in the state of Minnesota Attorney General's office since 1985, was elected Associate Justice of the State Superior Court in Minnesota.

Long an advocate of youth education, he established the Page Education Foundation in 1988. It is a nonprofit scholarship funding program, founded to encourage Sidney Williams, who played line-backer for Cleveland, Washington, Baltimore, and Pittsburgh from 1964 until 1969, was recently named the U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas, and began his post April 1.

He has also been active in politics, serving as a legislative aide for the Los Angeles City Council's 10th District, and supporting his wife,



Ambassador Sidney Williams, Representative Maxine Waters and Deputy Chief of Protocal Fred Duvall

youths— particularly minorities— to continue their education after high school.

He has spent years teaching young people the importance of going beyond athletics, something he accomplished with great success.

Former NFL players have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, legislators— even a Supreme Court Judge. However, no player had ever been appointed to a position as a foreign envoy. Until now.

Maxine Waters, who is the Congresswoman for California's 29th district.

Arrayed in honors in academics and athletics, **Jack Mildren** graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1972 prepared for both a career in the NFL and in the business world.

He was drafted by the Baltimore Colts and played there for two seasons, finishing his career with New England in 1974.

He was now ready to



Lt. Gov. Jack Mildren

pursue a career in business and quickly made quite a name for himself. Well-known throughout the state of Oklahoma, Jack was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1990 and. with the same drive visible in his playing career and business activities, has quickly become a voice of leadership at the regional and national levels, serving as chairman of the Southern Region of the National Council of Lieutenant Governors and has been appointed to the Council's Executive Committee.

Are there any similarities between football and sailing? Well, one may be **Larry Mialik**, former Atlanta Falcon and San Diego Charger tight end, and now grinder for the America's Cup Sailing team.

What is a grinder? According to Larry, who sailed with America³ when it defeated Italy's Il Moro di Venezia to win the America's Cup in San Diego last May, a grinder turns the heavy winches that



control the jib and spinnaker—the two forward sails.

He believes that the mental workout involved in sailing goes

lem- America's youth. Brown says, "Football is a very small part of life. . . a lot of things going on down in the streets are much more



Sailor Larry Mialik

way beyond that of football. In addition to your opponents and teammates you must deal with wind shifts, currents, boat rigging.

"The part that compares well with football is the idea of working together. The underlying foundation of both sports is attitude and participating in a team setting," says Mialik.

He began sailing as a hobby, but after meeting some of the crew from The Heart of America, a contender for the 1987 America's Cup trials, he decided to pursue it full-time.

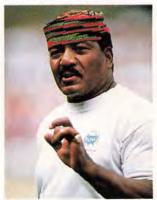
PSAs, endorsements, talk show appearances aren't enough for Jim Brown. He's getting down and dirty in the streets working with gang members and is producing amazing results around the country.

Jim Brown, the Hall of Famer who retired at the height of his career with several rushing records, is now channeling his energies into a major social probimportant."

He is working with gang members, primarily the Crips and Bloods in Central Los Angeles, to help them break from their gang affiliations and integrate into society.

His program, Amer-I-Can, teaches life management skills to help increase selfesteem and motivation.

Amer-I-Can is a private, for-profit organization that has been so successful that nine cities around the country are using the



Jim Brown

John Reid Photo

program, which also targets prison inmates.

Gang members who have been successful in breaking with their

pasts and have returned to school or found jobs then become in Dallas. Kilcullen teachers of the program. So far there are about 75 former gang members and exconvicts acting as consultants.

Bob Kilcullen

always knew that one day he would be an artist. An art major in college, at Texas Tech, he put his dream on hold in 1957 when he signed with the Chicago Bears.

For 10 years he pursued a goal at odds with the peace and serenity of his paintbrush. As an end and

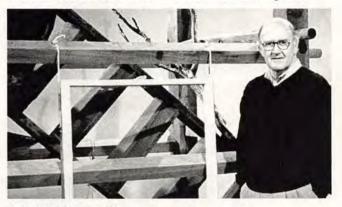
sion for the Prince Of Peace Catholic Church will also have a piece in the Texas Excellence Center in Dallas this June.

It's hard enough to play in the NFL, but imagine if you had to memorize all the plays in Spanish, then translate them back for the audible calls?

This was what Benny Ricardo.

former kicker for the Minnesota Vikings did, no doubt with an air of humor.

Although Benny ended his nine year career in the top 10,



Artist Bob Kilcullen

tackle, he released violence on the playing field, explaining, "When you make up your mind to play a sport you adjust.

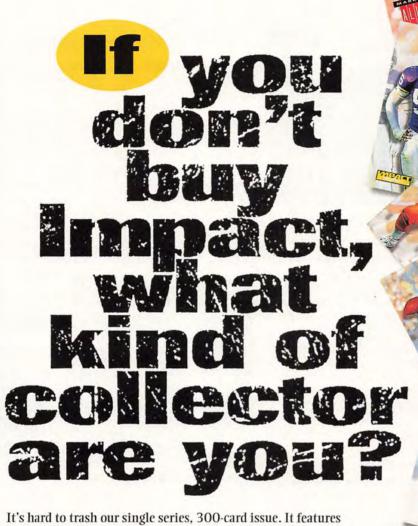
Eventually, he found some undeveloped land in Dallas and with backing opened the Dallas Arts District, which is home to the Dallas Arts Center.

Now he can finally pursue his dream. His works have ranged from oils to charcoal, but his specialty is bronze. He recently held an exhibit at the OK Harris Gallery in New York City and is working on a commisall-time best field goal percentage, he is better known for his lighthearted actions off the field.

Currently a sportscaster for ESPN International, Benny is trading on his bilingual skills, proving that humor can cross the language barrier.

He is also a standup comic, appearing at comedy and night clubs across the country and has entertained at several NFLPA events.

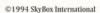
Ricardo says, "It's an incredible rush to be on stage and control (Continued On Page 73)



randomly inserted Rookie Exchange cards (odds 1:350), redeemable for up to the top 29 NFL Draft Picks in pro uniforms. Then there are two special insert sets—Instant Impact '93 Rookies (odds 1:30) and Ultimate Impact Veteran Stars (odds 1:15). Plus a special hologram featuring SkyDiscTM technology (odds 1:330). In comparison, everything else just stinks.













20-Year Gift Of Life

A three-year mortality study of 7,000 ex-NFL players reveals that the average player will live to at least 72 years of age.

That's the same life span that an average American male can expect, so the information isn't that significant— or is it?

To NFL players it is a monumental finding, because players have been under the assumption that they have given up at

least 20 years of life to play in the NFL.

That was an old wives' tale that had been floating around locker rooms for more than 25 years. So when the NFL Players Association asked the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to conduct a study, Dr. Sherry Baron, NIOSH researcher, accepted the challenge.

Certainly parents of high school and college football players would want to know, and the study should put to rest the fear

that the sport is life shortening.

The fear was real to former NFL players. One seven-year veteran woke up on the eve of his 52nd birthday in a cold sweat and told his wife he had only months to live. She couldn't disuade him without seeking professional help.

How many parents have refused to allow sons to play football because of the violence and danger. Yet Dr. Baron explains that the survey shows that football players are less prone to death by accident or violence than the average

One disquieting fact emerged in Dr. Baron's research. Offensive and defensive linemen had a 50% greater risk of heart attack than players at other football positions. The warning is clear. Artificial or forced bulking up is hazardous to one's health.

As NFLPA President Mike Kenn announced to his player reps, "When we get out of this game, we'll have to hit the juice bars and yogurt shops, and bypass the beer and pretzel stands."

Where Are **They Now**

(Continued From Page 71)

your audiences' emotions. . when everything's clicking, it's the same feeling you get when you put your foot into a lastsecond kick and the ball goes down the middle."



Woschitz Photo

The long and short of it; Benny Ricardo and Ben Davidson

Barry Sanders-- What Makes This Guy Tick

(Continued From Page 61)

Peter Schaffer, one of Sanders agents, laughs, "We turn down about a half-million dollars per year.

"Barry has a few endorsements, but it comes down to his priorities with his time.

"We had one guy tell us he was ready to cut a six-figure deal and he said, 'Make him do the deal.' I said, 'Whoa, that might work for other people, but not with Barry.'

"Barry will turn that down and then turn around and give up an entire weekend-during the football season—for the

Make-A-Wish Foundation. That's the way he is."

Sanders has been through a couple of contract holdouts and recently became the highest paid running back in NFL history. You know the saying, "When someone say's it's not the money, it's the principle—it's always the money."

In Sanders' case, it's the principle.

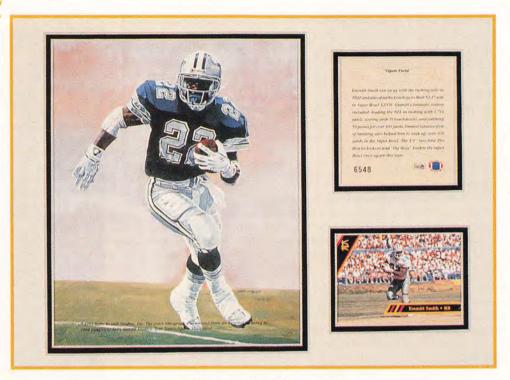
White says that Sanderswho now makes more than \$4 million per season from the Lions-comfortably lives a lifestyle of someone earning \$50,000 per year.

But Sanders' pride would not allow him to draw a paycheck that didn't match his worth, whether it's \$4 million per year or the \$3.35 an hour he made as a grocery bagger during his college years. And that's one of the reasons Sanders left Oklahoma State early. He was disillusioned with the take-take-take of college athlet-

In Detroit, Sanders still tools around in the 1989 Acura Legend he bought as a rookie. And he still cuts his own hair.

Tom Kowalski covers the Detroit Lions for the Detroit Free Press.

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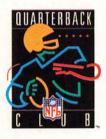


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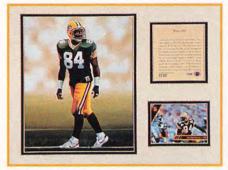
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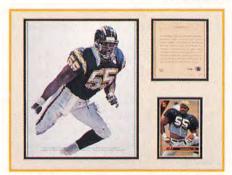


Sterling Sharpe



Tim Brown

Punishing Defenders

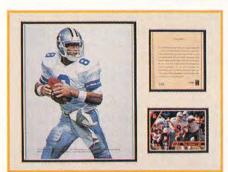


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Defensive Backs—Mel Grey, Ray Crockett, Terrell Buckley, Rod Woodson, Deion Sanders.

Linebackers—Ken Norton, Junior Seau, Derrick Thomas*, Rickey Jackson, Sam Mills*.

Defensive Linemen—William Perry, Richard Dent, Reggie White, Chris Doleman, Bruce Smith*, Cornelius Bennett, Karl Mecklenburg, Steve Emtman*, Charles Mann.

^{*}Available Pending NFLPA Authorization.

Doug Williams — From Stardom To Obscurity And Back Again

By Rick Snider

or 15 minutes, quarterback **Doug Williams** found perfection— five drives, five touchdowns, and four scoring passes— to lead the Washington Redskins to Super Bowl XXII.

But one season later, the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player found himself back on the bench. Two years after the title, Williams was out of the National Football League. From "going to Disney World" to returning to his small hometown of Zachary, LA, it was a quick career nose-dive for Williams to privately endure.

But instead of sulking, Williams rekindled the same passion that once made him a rookie starter. Saying "you've got to go on with your life," he dropped any pretentiousness and vanity and began looking for somewhere, anywhere to coach football.

Today, Williams is the running backs coach for the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, less than one hour away from RFK Stadium where he finished a one-year career that included stints with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Oklahoma Outlaws of the United States Football League. After two successful seasons as a high school coach, Williams was hired by former Tampa Bay assistant coach George Chaump in January to help Navy's running game.

"I really wasn't out there looking for a job," said Williams, who only applied to one other college. "(But) I couldn't think of a better opportunity to jump into college coaching than the Naval Academy."

It has been a meteoric fall and resurrection for Williams since winning the Super Bowl in January, 1988. Starting the next season over Jay Schroeder, Williams underwent an emergency appendectomy in week four to miss four games. During the off-season, Williams suffered a back injury while working out on a treadmill, and would start only two games in 1989.

Washington then released Williams the following March. He was suddenly out of football because the Redskins officials said they wanted a younger backup for starter Mark Rypien than Williams, who was making \$1 million annually. However, Washington signed Jeff Rutledge, who at 33 was just 14 months younger than Williams, for less money. After four years with Washington, Williams was bitter over the ending.

"I didn't agree with some of the things that happened," he said. "I don't like to be lied to. I



Doug Williams in Super Bowl year

Howard Sachs Photo

was 34 and Jeff was 33— what's the difference? If they drafted a rookie to go with Rypien and Stan (Humphries), that's youth, but don't bring in Jeff Rutledge who started 10 games in his career."

However, Williams tries to be diplomatic about the split, saying, "There's nothing wrong with expressing your feelings. I didn't call anybody names. I even thanked folks for giving me a chance."

So what was Williams going to do now that his career was over? Well, his boyhood dream was to coach high school football, and he always loved spending the off-season in his native Zachary, a town of 8,000 near New Orleans. It was only natural for Williams to return to his hometown to begin again.

First Williams spent 1990 as a college game analyst for the Black Entertainment Network, but second-guessing others publicly wasn't his style.

"I had fun, but I'd rather be on the sidelines than the booth," he said. "I don't like to be critical. I didn't want to say the coach called a bad play or the quarterback made a terrible decision on national TV."

So when a head coaching position opened in 1991 near Zachary, Williams quickly applied.

"A lot of guys who play in the pros don't want to coach high school," he said. "They think they're a cut above it."

With only 35 players from a school of 600, Williams led Pointe High to a 5-5 record while upsetting the No. 2 team in the state. But that was only the setup for the job and a season of Williams' dreams. He transferred to his old high school, now renamed Northeast High, in



1992. Playing on Doug Williams Field, he led the team to the school's first undefeated regular season ever before being eliminated in the state semifinals.

Still, Williams knew his days in Zachary were numbered. At age 38, his time was running out on the college level. That meant moving on soon.

"If I was 45, 50-years old, there's no way in the world I would have left," he said. "The hardest thing was telling the kids I was leaving. The young ones were looking forward to playing for coach Williams."

Williams sees Navy as a unique opportunity to influence not only players, but the country's future leaders.

"Fifteen, 20 years from now, some of these young men will be in the position of Secretary of State or Congressman," he said. "I met a lot of young guys who look at me as someone to look up to, but I admire them."

At Navy, Williams feels he's partly getting an opportunity that comes with being a Super Bowl

champion quarterback. He has seen the financial success of others who have won America's ultimate prize, and expected to be the next athlete to earn millions pitching products. Oh, Williams received the traditional Disney postgame commercial by being the MVP, but that was about it.

And that has bothered him so much over the years that Williams said he has watched a replay of the Super Bowl victory only once.

Why didn't he get more offers? "Racism," he says.

"I think Jim Kelly is one of the best (quarter-

backs ever)," he said. "Dan Fouts, John Elway, and Fran Tarkenton. . . I've got something they all don't that sets me apart. There are only a few Super Bowl rings out there. I've got as many as Joe Namath."

But successfully overcoming racism has been Williams' burden since becoming the first black quarterback ever drafted in the first round by Tampa Bay in 1979. Grambling University sent more than 150 players to the pros before Williams, but only two were quarterbacks with one playing in the Canadian Football League instead. While coach Jim McKay compared Williams to Norm Van Brocklin, the fans pressured Williams by mailing a rotten watermelon with a racist note after a playoff loss.

But the pressure escalated before the Super

Bowl with one reporter even asking how long Williams had been a black quarterback.

"When we went to the Super Bowl, people asked me about the pressure of being a black quarterback and was all black America watching me. I knew that, but I was not going to my room at night thinking about what people were asking me. I was thinking about how to beat Denver."

Indeed, his determination to overcome racism was the reason Williams quickly returned after hyperextending his knee in the first quarter to lead the Redskins to five straight scoring drives.

"If I hadn't finished the game, it would have given so many people that did not want me to win, and I'm talking about the media, an opportunity to cite some beautiful stories for themselves," he said.

Six years later, a few flecks of grey hair are the only visible difference in Williams, who says he's now much happier with his personal life. His wife of two years, LaTaunya, is expecting the couple's second child in June while Doug



Doug Williams at Navy

Sharon Natoff Photo

Williams, Jr. is nearing his second birthday. Williams said he has found the perfect mate for a football coach.

"You have to have an understanding wife who likes what you're doing," he said. "I'm just lucky to be married to someone who loves sports. Rain or shine, I knew she was in the stands."

How long Williams stays at Navy is uncertain. For now, he's back in the limelight at a Division I college program with no future plans.

"You have to take things a day at a time," he said. "I didn't expect to be here at Navy. I thought I would be in home room."

Rick Snider is the editor of the **Redskins Review** and is a freelance writer for many sports publications.



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World's Largest Super Bowl Party

By Ronnie Lott and Marcus Allen

hy did we want to create our own party around the Super Bowl? That's easy. Every year we saw the Super Bowl becoming more and more a corporate event, so we began searching for something for the fans and players.

The result is the **NFLPA's "World's Largest Super Bowl Party,"** a four-day event which caters to the fans— more than 20,000 this year— and the players— nearly 500, who celebrated together in Atlanta.

Our idea was create an event that was unlike the glitzy, but sterile, pre-packaged events usually associated with Super Bowl week. Fans are in town from all over the country and we wanted to make our party a gathering place, where fans can mingle with players, just sit and shoot the breeze and see that we're regular guys.

Most of the parties are exclusive, so the average fan can't even attend. The public isn't really a part of the Super Bowl and what makes our party different is that the public is involved. Our event is a chance for fans— especially kids— to meet the players.

Another aspect that's become important to our event is the charity side. A portion of the proceeds from this past year's event went to the new Youth Education Town in Atlanta and we plan to do the same next year in Miami. Addi-



Ronnie Lott

Eric Francis Photo

tionally, we were able to donate some money to the NFLPA's Player Assistance Trust fund, which helps former players in dire need.

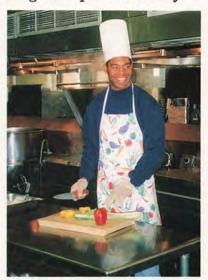
But we didn't want to make the event exclusive, or expensive, just to raise money. Tickets were inexpensive,

and once inside, fans could purchase souvenirs, Super Bowl merchandise, food and drinks. We didn't charge people for autographs, or to listen to the bands. We wanted the party to represent us and everyone else involved. To begin with, we had the event officially licensed by the NFL Players Association. Then we became personally involved in every step of the planning. Starting in December (1993), we flew to Atlanta just about every Tuesday, our only day off, to tape radio and TV promos for the party.

When the doors opened on the first day, we were there to say "thank you" for supporting the NFLPA's "World's Largest Super Bowl Party."

For the next four days, fans-20,000 of themhad their own Super Bowl experience. They could socialize with active and retired players, get autographs, take pictures with the players, or go up and have a personal conversation with their favorite star.

There were basketball challenges and football Pro



Marcus Allen

Creative Loafing Photo

Video game challenges with us, and Miller Lite Sumo Wrestling.

On game day, fans who couldn't pay thousands to get tickets could come by and watch the game with us on one of the three video screens or 40 large screen TVs— we even had real NFL players handling the play-by-play during the game.

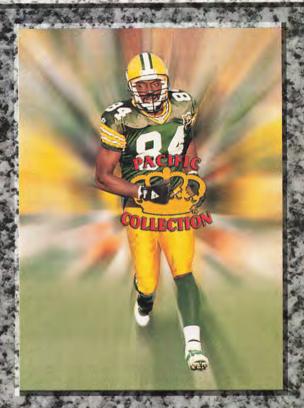
We wanted people to leave saying, "I had a great time." And not necessarily because they rubbed elbows with athletes, but because they were dancing all night and we were partying together. Hey, I (Marcus) even got up on stage with the band and sang on the closing night. In fact, I've already started puttting together an NFLPA Jam Band made up of NFL players for next year's event. We're also lining up concerts and starting the official NFLPA Fashion Show.

So come out and see us, our teammates, and friends at the official "Players Party," the **NFLPA's "World's Largest Super Bowl Party"** next year in Miami.



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Sunday, September 4 Atlanta at Detroit Cleveland at Cincinnati Houston at Indianapolis Kansas City at New Orleans Philadelphia at New York Giants Seattle at Washington Tampa Bay at Chicago Minnesota at Green Bay (Milw.) New England at Miami Dallas at Pittsburgh New York Jets at Buffalo Arizona at L.A. Rams San Diego at Denver (N)

Monday, September 5 L.A. Raiders at San Francisco (N)

Sunday, September 11 Buffalo at New England Cincinnati at San Diego Denver at New York Jets Detroit at Minnesota Houston at Dallas Indianapolis at Tampa Bay L.A. Rams at Atlanta Miami at Green Bay Pittsburgh at Cleveland San Francisco at Kansas City Seattle at L.A. Raiders Washington at New Orleans New York Giants at Arizona (N)

Monday, September 12 Chicago at Philadelphia (N)

Sunday, September 18 Arizona at Cleveland Buffalo at Houston Green Bay at Philadelphia Indianapolis at Pittsburgh L.A. Raiders at Denver Minnesota at Chicago New England at Cincinnati New Orleans at Tampa Bay New York Jets at Miami San Diego at Seattle San Francisco at L.A. Rams Washington at New York Giants Kansas City at Atlanta (N)

Monday, September 19 Detroit at Dallas (N)

Sunday, September 25 (Open Dates: Arizona, Dallas, New York Giants, Philadelphia) Atlanta at Washington Cincinnati at Houston Cleveland at Indianapolis L.A. Rams at Kansas City Miami at Minnesota New England at Detroit New Orleans at San Francisco Pittsburgh at Seattle San Diego at L.A. Raiders Tampa Bay at Green Bay Chicago at New York Jets (N)

Monday, September 26 Denver at Buffalo (N)

San Diego) Atlanta at L.A. Rams Buffalo at Chicago Dallas at Washington Detroit at Tampa Bay Green Bay at New England Minnesota at Arizona New York Giants at New Orleans New York Jets at Cleveland

Miami at Cincinnati (N) Monday, October 3 Houston at Pittsburgh (N)

Seattle at Indianapolis

Philadelphia at San Francisco

Sunday, October 9 (Open Dates: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Houston, Pittsburgh) Arizona at Dallas Denver at Seattle Indianapolis at N.Y Jets Kansas City at San Diego L.A. Raiders at New England L.A. Rams at Green Bay Miami at Buffalo New Orleans at Chicago San Francisco at Detroit Tampa Bay at Atlanta Washington at Philadeiphia (N)

Monday, October 10 Minnesota at New York Giants (N)

Thursday, October 13 Cleveland at Houston (N)

Sunday, October 16 (Open Dates: Chicago, Detroit, Green Bay, Minnesota, Seattle, Tampa Bay) Arizona at Washington Cincinnati at Pittsburgh Indianapolis at Buffalo L.A. Raiders at Miami New England at New York Jets New York Giants at L.A. Rams Philadelphia at Dallas San Diego at New Orleans San Francisco at Atlanta

Monday, October 17 Kansas City at Denver (N)

Thursday, October 20 Green Bay at Minnesota (N)

Sunday, October 23 (Open Dates: Buffalo, Miami, New England, New York Jels) Atlanta at L.A. Raiders Chicago at Detroit Cincinnati at Cleveland Dallas at Arizona Denver at San Diego L.A. Rams at New Orleans Pittsburgh at New York Giants Seattle at Kansas City Tampa Bay at San Francisco Washington at Indianapolis

Monday, October 24 Houston at Philadelphia (N)

Sunday, October 30 (Open Dates: Atlanta, L.A. Rams, New Orleans, San Francisco) Cleveland at Denver Dallas at Cincinnati Detroit at New York Giants Houston at L.A. Raiders Kansas City at Buffalo Miami at New England Minnesota at Tampa Bay New York Jets at Indianapolis Philadelphia at Washington Seattle at San Diego Pittsburgh at Arizona (N)

Monday, October 31 Green Bay at Chicago (N)

Sunday, November 6 Arizona at Philadelphia Buffalo at New York Jets Chicago at Tampa Bay Cincinnati at Seattle Denver at L.A. Rams Detroit at Green Bay (Milw.) Indianapolis at Miami New England at Cleveland New Orleans at Minnesota Pittsburgh at Houston San Diego at Atlanta San Francisco at Washington L.A. Raiders at Kansas City (N)

Monday, November 7 New York Giants at Dallas (N)

Sunday, November 13 (Open Dates: Indianapolis, Washington) Arizona at New York Giants Atlanta at New Orleans Chicago at Miami Cleveland at Philadelphia Dallas at San Francisco Houston at Cincinnati L.A. Raiders at L.A. Rams Minnesota at New England New York Jets at Green Bay San Diego at Kansas City Seattle at Denver Tampa Bay at Detroit (N)

Monday, November 14 Buffalo at Pittsburgh (N)

Sunday, November 20 Atlanta at Denver Cleveland at Kansas City Detroit at Chicago Green Bay at Buffalo Indianapolis at Cincinnati Miami at Pittsburgh New Orleans at L.A. Raiders New York Jets at Minnesota Philadelphia at Arizona San Diego at New England Tampa Bay at Seattle Washington at Dallas L.A. Rams at San Francisco (N)

Monday, November 21 New York Giants at Houston (N)

Thursday, November 24 Buffalo at Detroit Green Bay at Dallas

Sunday, November 27 Chicago at Arizona Cincinnati at Denver Houston at Cleveland Kansas City at Seattle L.A. Rams at San Diego Miami at New York Jets New York Giants at Washington Philadelphia at Atlanta Pittsburgh at L.A. Raiders Tampa Bay at Minnesota New England at Indianapolis (N)

Monday, November 28 San Francisco at New Orleans (N)

Thursday, December 1 Chicago at Minnesota (N)

Sunday, December 4 Arizona at Houston Atlanta at San Francisco Dallas at Philadelphia Denver at Kansas City Green Bay at Detroit Indianapolis at Seattle New Orleans at L.A. Rams New York Giants at Cleveland New York Jets at New England Pittsburgh at Cincinnati Washington at Tampa Bay Buffalo at Miami (N)

Monday, December 5 L.A. Raiders at San Diego (N)

Saturday, December 10 Cleveland at Dallas Detroit at New York Jets

Sunday, December 11 Chicago at Green Bay Cincinnati at New York Giants Denver at L.A. Raiders Indianapolis at New England L.A. Rams at Tampa Bay Minnesota at Buffalo Philadelphia at Pittsburgh San Francisco at San Diego Seattle at Houston Washington at Arizona New Orleans at Atlanta (N)

Monday, December 12 Kansas City at Miami (N)

Saturday, December 17 Minnesota at Detroit Denver at San Francisco

Sunday, December 18 Atlanta at Green Bay (Milw.) Cincinnati at Arizona Cleveland at Pittsburgh Houston at Kansas City L.A. Rams at Chicago Miami at Indianapolis New England at Buffalo New York Giants at Philadelphia San Diego at New York Jets Tampa Bay at Washington L.A. Raiders at Seattle (N)

Monday, December 19 Dallas at New Orleans (N)

Saturday, December 24 Arizona at Atlanta Buffalo at Indianapolis Dallas at New York Giants Green Bay at Tampa Bay Kansas City at L.A. Raiders New England at Chicago New Orleans at Denver New York Jets at Houston Philadelphia at Cincinnati Pittsburgh at San Diego Seattle at Cleveland Washington at L.A. Rams Detroit at Miami (N)

Monday, December 26 San Francisco at Minnesota (N)

Saturday, December 31 Sunday, January 1 NFC and AFC Wild Card Games

Saturday, January 7 Sunday, January 8 Divisional Playoffs

Sunday, January 15 NFC and AFC Championship Games

Sunday, January 29 Super Bowl XXIX (Miami, FL)

Sunday, February 5 NFC-AFC Pro Bowl (Honolulu, HI)

NATIONAL FOOTBALL Despite its losses, CONFERENCE Dallas remains the team to beat in the NFC

NFC PREDICTIONS

1. Dallas Cowboys

2. New York Giants* 3. Arizona Cardinals*

5. Washington Redskins

4. Philadelphia Eagles 4. Los Angeles Rams NFC Champion: Dallas Cowboys

· Wild Card Teams

If the NFC abdicates its 10-year Super Bowl reign in 1994, it will be Jerry Jones's idea. Jones is the king of pro football and his two-time world champion Dallas Cowboys play in the NFC. Jones expects another title despite his curious decision to divorce himself from coach Jimmy Johnson and hire another old Arkansas pal, Barry Switzer. Whatever Jones wants, he usually gets, no matter what the subject. The Cowboys suffered some free-agent losses and a draft-day trade setback, but they remain the team to beat in the NFL.

After back-to-back titles, Jones decided there were too many J's in Dallas and broke up the most successful management team of the '90s. Granted, he had help from Johnson, who found it increasingly stifling to work for an owner with an ego at least as big as his own. The football cliché that winning provides enough credit for everybody to share was proved wrong in Dallas, where Jones likes to brag he paid \$130 million for his franchise. When it became known as Johnson's team, Jones was eager to set the record straight.

Change never intimidates Jones; it invigorates him. So when he began second-guessing himself about Johnson's future during a barroom conversation at the NFL owners' meetings. Jones soon made sure he would not enter 1994 with any regrets. For Johnson, the rift had become so wide that it was easy for him to see an escape route paved with gold. To Jones, Johnson would become more valuable to the Cowboys if he didn't coach them. In Switzer, Jones resurrected a brilliant college coach after his five-year absence from football. Jones also gained a more willing partner for the nightlife both enjoy. It was as if Jones sensed a certain amount of boredom infiltrating America's Team. Therefore, he would stay one step ahead of inertia. He and Johnson would part ways before anyone else gave the timing a thought. When it was done. Jones had somehow convinced Johnson to make it sound like a good idea.

"Personally, it was time I think I needed to pull back some," Johnson said. "Anybody who knows me knows I have to be 100 per-

1 Green Bay Packers CENTRAL 2. Minnesota Vikings

1. San Francisco 49ers 3. Chicago Bears 2. New Orleans Saints 3. Atlanta Falcons

4. Detroit Lions 5. Tampa Bay Buccaneers **by DON PIERSON**

CHICAGO TRIBUNE



James D. Smith

cent totally focused or else I'm not going to be as good. I felt like I was beginning to lose that focus, and because of that, I'm no longer coach of the Cowboys.'

Johnson had always referred to Jones as "the smartest businessman" he had ever known. Jones considered it a compliment that nevertheless implied his football knowledge was limited. So buying Johnson out would guarantee one thing: The Cowboys are again Jones's team, solely and completely. By changing coaches in the middle of a stream of good fortune, Jones guaranteed he will be the center of attention throughout 1994. In 1993, Jones was criticized for playing contract hardball with Emmitt Smith. After the signing and Smith's sensational MVP year, Jones was disappointed that the owner didn't get enough credit for holding the line against this year's new salary cap.

"Everyone will see why I bargained the way I did with Emmitt," Jones said. "If I had not done that, it would give us \$1 million a year less under the cap, which would give us one, maybe two key players. People will see where you get credit is when you try to manage and be frugal as opposed to when you just throw it out. I can tell free agents, 'I tried as hard as I could to have the dollars available for you."

Barry Switzer & Jerry Jones

Johnson and Jones made 51 trades from the time they arrived in Dallas in 1989 to the time they split up. By most accounts, Johnson was pulling the trigger. Jones wanted to remind everybody it was Jerry's gun. That Jones has emerged as the most powerful owner in pro football is apparently only part of the projection the oil and gas man set for himself when he bought the Cowboys. "No way I could be involved in the NFL if I hadn't been a frustrated coach," Jones admitted. "If I hadn't been so greedy when a young man, I probably would have been in coaching.

In 1993, it was Jones who helped nix NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue's plan to extend television contracts at old prices. Then it was Jones who spearheaded a bold new alliance with Fox by personally wooing Rupert Murdoch. CBS must have been getting boring. But Jones didn't receive the proper attention for his television deeds. So as a member of the powerful competition committee, Jones voted for rules changes to encourage more touchdowns, more excitement, more money, less boredom. Realignment? Whatever Jones says. One thing for certain: His Cowboys are going nowhere. East is East and West is West only when Jones says so. The Cowboys are East forever. When he paid \$130 million, he

bought rivalries with the Washington Redskins, New York Giants, and Philadelphia Eagles. No way he moves

So 1994 is a year dedicated to Jerry Jones, the one man in football obviously not preoccupied with the boredom of the salary cap. Any man who jettisons his coach because he didn't like the way he reacted to a toast is a man worth watching. When Johnson and friends, including some Jones had fired, provided a lukewarm response to a Jones' toast at the NFL owners meetings, Jones stalked away. "I was not satisfied with the toast, so I went to toast someplace else," Jones admitted, Johnson and Jones made Buddy Ryan's punch of Kevin Gilbride on the Houston Oilers' sideline look like a pat on the back

'We're going to win and we're going to have fun." Switzer promised.

BUDDY IS BACK

For sure, the Cowboys are going to be noticed. They threaten to overshadow everything else happening in the NFC in 1994, including the return of Ryan. Proclaiming "Jimmy Johnson has never beat me," Ryan was hired by the Arizona Cardinals after one year in Houston and two years on his horse farm following his 1990 firing in Philadelphia. Too bad Johnson is out of the picture in the NFC East. Too bad Ryan's old boss, Norman Braman, just sold the Eagles to Hollywood producer Jeffrey Lurie. But if Ryan runs out of feuds, he is certain to create more. "I think we can be a contender," Ryan said.

Suddenly, Ryan's Philadelphia successor, Rich Kotite, is the dean of NFC East coaches. There are only five new NFL head coaches. and four are in the NFC. Three are in the NFC East, where Super Bowls are expected or else. Ryan joins Switzer in Dallas and Norv Turner in Washington, plus June Jones in NFC West Atlanta and Pete Carroll of the New York Jets as newcomers to the club Jerry Glanville aptly dubbed as the "NFL-Not For Long.

Turner becomes the second Jimmy Johnson coordinator in two years to take over a team, following Dave Wannstedt with the Chicago Bears. Switzer need not worry. Johnson already had hired Ernie Zampese from the Los Angeles Rams to replace offensive coordinator Turner. Who is Zampese? Turner's mentor. The offense in Dallas should suffer no more than the defense did after Wannstedt coached it to the No. 1 spot in 1992 and Butch Davis coached it to yield fewer points (but more yards) in 1993. Switzer is content to allow the coordinators room. He did the same thing at Oklahoma, where former linebacker Brian Bosworth swears he never saw the head coach stay for an entire practice.

CHANGING PLACES

Emmitt Smith

Jones isn't the only NFL decision-maker to embrace change. Eight of the 14 NFC teams have new quarterbacks and four of them came from the AFC. The Minnesota Vikings traded for Houston's Warren Moon. The Detroit Lions signed young free agent Scott Mitchell from Miami and old free agent David Krieg from Kansas City. Atlanta traded for Indianapolis's Jeff George. Chicago signed Detroit's Erik Kramer, and in the NFC West the merry-go-round put the Rams' Jim Everett in New Orleans and the Falcons' Chris Miller

with the Rams. After the top two rookie quarterbacks last year went to the AFC (New England's Drew Bledsoe and Seattle's Rick Mirer), the NFC landed the top two this year, with Tennessee's Heath Shuler going to the Redskins and Fresno State's Trent Dilfer going to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Saints signed the Falcons' speed receiver, Michael Haynes. The Falcons landed the Vikings' pass rusher Chris Doleman. The Vikings took the Falcons' pass blocker Chris Hinton. The Green Bay Packers took the Bucs' leading rusher, Reggie Cobb. The Bears signed the New York Giants' ace backup, Lewis Tillman. Ryan got Eagles defenders Clyde Simmons and Seth Joyner to jump to Arizona. The San Francisco 49ers, tired of chasing the Cowboys, got Dallas middle linebacker Ken Norton to join them. The Redskins took linebacker Ken Harvey from the Cardinals and receiver Henry Ellard from the Rams.

EMMITT'S LEAGUE

Jones may own the Cowboys, but Emmitt Smith owned the NFL last year. He didn't get his due, not even after piling the Super Bowl MVP trophy atop the league's MVP honor. Smith's sum is more spectacular than his parts. Rarely flashy, Smith's relentless nature enabled him to lead the league in rushing for the third time in a row despite missing the first two games in his contract dispute. The Cowboys were 0-2 until he returned.

For most of the season. Smith performed in his usual fashion, which means 100 yards is routine and unnoticed except by coaches. Then, dragging a separated shoulder that required offseason surgery, Smith carried the Cowboys on his shoulders in a must-win game against the Giants to sew up a playoff bye. Smith played so he wouldn't have to play the following week.

"Who could have seen the Giants' game and not remembered it for the rest of their lives?" asked commissioner Tagliabue.

'It was a year that never, ever will be forgotten by myself." Smith admitted.

Jones and the Cowboys have set the stage for another memorable season.

1994 ALL-NFC TEAM

OFFENSE

- **QB** Troy Aikman, Dallas
- RB Emmitt Smith, Dallas
- RB Jerome Bettis, Los Angeles
- WR Jerry Rice, San Francisco
- WR Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay
- TE Jackie Harris, Green Bay
- OT Erik Williams, Dallas
- OT Willie Roaf, New Orleans og Randall McDaniel, Minnesota
- og William Roberts, New York
- Jesse Sapolu, San Francisco

DEFENSE

- DE Reggie White, Green Bay
- DE Trace Armstrong, Chicago
- DT Eric Swann, Arizona
- DT John Randle, Minnesota
- LB Renaldo Turnbull, New Orleans
- LB Seth Joyner, Arizona
- LB Hardy Nickerson, Tampa Bay
- CB Eric Allen , Philadelphia
- **CB** Deion Sanders, Atlanta
- SS LeRoy Butler, Green Bay
- FS Greg Jackson, New York
- P Chris Gardocki, Chicago

DALLAS COWBOYS

At some point during the 1994 season, the names of Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Michael Irvin, Jay Novacek, Alvin Harper, Daryl Johnston, Erik Williams, Kevin Smith, Charles Haley, Leon Lett, and Russell Maryland are expected to become more familiar than Jerry Jones, Jimmy Johnson, and Barry Switzer. Certainly they are more important when assessing the Cowboys' chances of becoming the first three-peat Super Bowl winner and the first three-time NFL champion since the 1965-66-67 Packers, who accomplished the first the year before the Super Bowl was invented. The Cowboys have the players. Johnson gathered them, Jones pays them, and Switzer now coaches them, none of which will matter much between the white lines. The Cowboys may not be as loaded as they were before free agency took a toll, but how many bullets are needed to make a point?

"Things will remain the same," promised Switzer, returning to coaching after five years away from football. "Get ready to watch the Dallas Cowboys be the best in the NFL."

In their last six playoff victories, they have outscored teams 211-98 and are plus-16 in



the turnover ratio. They have room to spare. When offensive coordinator Norv Turner left to take over the Washington Redskins, Johnson replaced him with Ernie Zampese of the Los Angeles Rams, who is only Turner's guru. Still, the free-agent losses must be addressed. The Cowboys were gutted up the gut, where the foundation for great teams starts. Middle linebacker Ken Norton Jr. went to the 49ers. Guards John Gesek (Redskins) and Kevin Gogan (Raiders) and defensive tackles Tony Casillas (Chiefs) and Jimmie Jones (Rams) left. Safety Thomas Everett was traded to the Bucs. Backup quarterback Bernie Kosar (Dolphins) was released. The Cowboys still have Pro Bowl talent at those positions, but they don't have the depth.

If the Cowboys are indeed only a three-man team, then Aikman, Smith, and Irvin are a good trio to boast. Aikman is as good as they come, at the height of his prime and maybe not even as good as he can get. His passer rating of 99.0 last year was a career high,

following an upward spiral of 86.7 and 89.5. Nine quarterbacks threw more touchdown passes than Aikman's 15 last season, but no regular starter threw fewer interceptions than Aikman's six. As a leader, Aikman was the first to downplay the transition between Johnson and Switzer. It was Aikman who left Switzer's Oklahoma program to transfer to UCLA, but he said he left on good terms and welcomed the chance to play for him again.

"I think there is going to be a period of tran-

"I think there is going to be a period of transition, a little bit of uncertainty compared to where it would have been had Jimmy stayed," Aikman said. "All things considered, I think the hiring of Barry Switzer makes the transition as smooth as could possibly be expected."



1993 SCORES 19 DETROIT (N). 25 OPEN DATE .. October At Washington. 16-35 ARIZONA. 20-15 PHILADELPHIA. 16 23 At Arizona . At Cincinnati 30 N.Y. GIANTS (N). November 31-9 At San Francisco... WASHINGTON 26-17 20 .38-3 24 GREEN BAY .. 36-14 December 4 At Philadelphia. 10 CLEVELAND 19 At New Orleans (N). 24 At N.Y. Giants. 16-13

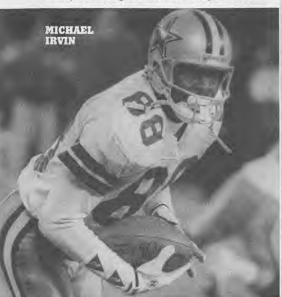
The more emotional Irvin decried the change and said he would miss Johnson. "I think he's doing the right thing for him. But I'd be foolish too if I said he was doing what's best for the Dallas Cowboys," he said. But Irvin is in the final year of a contract and is expected to play hard. After talking to Irvin the day after Switzer arrived, Smith said Irvin told him, "I'm going to go out and bust my butt all year long to get ready to play football this fall." Said Smith, "If Michael is going to do that, I believe every player on this team is going to have to take that same attitude."

Smith remains the key. He not only propels the offense, he takes pressure off the defense. It was more than coincidence that the Cowboys were 0-2 before he signed, then lost to the Falcons after he bruised a quadriceps and left after gaining one yard. He reached 100 yards in 10 of his 13 starts and carried the Cowboys to their overtime victory that wrested home field from the Giants.

"He's the best north-south runner I've ever seen," Johnson said, understated but accurate praise for a man who does nothing spectacular except get the job done.

The Cowboys kept fullback "Moose" Johnston from signing elsewhere, providing Smith with an unsung but vital element to the rushing game. Johnston blocks with the best of them and can run and catch well enough to grab the votes to earn a Pro Bowl berth. Derrick Lassic and Lincoln Coleman don't get much action behind the starters, but both picked up valuable experience as rookies.

The popular and talkative Irvin is the flashy element to the offense. He begs for the ball and comes through when it is delivered, making tough catches and setting an example in practice by outworking anyone within running distance. Sidekick Harper owes his big-play capacity to Irvin, who opens things up for Harper's impressive 21.6-yard average. Jones tried to trade Harper during the draft but failed to get what he wanted, leaving Harper's teammates happy to keep him. Tight end Novacek is as integral a part of the Cowboys' passing game as anyone in the league at his position. The addition of Zampese could further exploit Novacek's talents because Zampese designed the San Diego offenses



STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

that turned Kellen Winslow into a superstar. Third wide receiver Kevin Williams had 20 catches as a rookie and has the speed to become a game-breaker, as he demonstrated as an excellent punt and kickoff returner. Fellow second-year man Tyrone Williams is big and raw. The Cowboys must replace blocking tight end Alfredo Roberts, who was released.

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SCHOOL STREET	BSUFE 25	VETER	ALPH DEEP	20 E E E

na	COWBOYS VE				
no.	name pos	ht	- WI	age	college
34	Agee, TommieFB	6-0	235	30	Auburn
8	Aikman, Troy OB	6-4	228	28	UCLA
40	Bates, BillS	6-1	205	33	Tennessee
97	Batiste, MichaelDT	6-3	301	24	Tulane
45	Bell, Coleman TE	6-2	232	24	Miami
18	Boniol, Chris	5-11	159	23	Louisiana Tech
11	Bretz, Brad QB	6-5	218	24	Cal StHayward
24	Brown, Larry CB	5-11	182	25	TCU
27	Burch, Allie CB		196	23	
44					Michigan
	Coleman, LincolnRB	6-1	249	25	Baylor
56	Collins, Roosevelt LB		244	26	TCU
68	Cornish, FrankOL	6-4	287	27	UCLA
6	Cunningham, Richie K	5-10	165	24	SW Louisiana
81	Daniel, TimWR	5-11	192	25	Florida A&M
58	Edwards, DixonLB	6-1	222	26	Michigan State
6	Fayak, CraigK	6-1	188	22	Penn State
46	Fishback, Joe	6-0	212	27	Carson-Newman
39	Gainer, DerrickRB	5-11	228	28	Florida A&M
89	Galbraith, Scott TE	6-2	255	27	USC
29	Gant, Kenneth	5-11	189	27	Albany St.
17	Garrett, Jason OB	6-2	195	28	Princeton
32	Garrett, JuddRB	6-2	214	27	Princeton
94	Haley, CharlesDE	6-5	250	30	James Madison
80	Harper, AlvinWR	6-3	208	27	Tennessee
70	Heliestrae, DaleOL	6-5	275	32	SMU
95	Hennings, ChadDT	6-6	286	29	Air Force
2	Hill, ShelbyWR	6-0	207	23	Syracuse
47	Holmes Clayton CB	5-10	181	25	Carson-Newman
88	Irvin, Michael WR	6-2	206	28	Miami
77	loffcoat lim DC	6-5	280	33	Arizona State
	Jeffcoat, Jim DE	6-0			
19	Jett JohnP		184	26	East Carotina
48	Johnston, DarylFB	6-2	238	28	
55	Jones, Robert LB	6-2	237	25	East Carolina
38	Jones, Tommy CB	5-8	167	23	Fresno State
75	Jones, Tommy CB Joyce, Matt OL	6-7	283	22	Richmond
60	Kennard, DerekG	6-3	300	32	Nevada-Reno
25	Lassic, DerrickRB	5-10	188	24	Alabama
78	Lett LeonDL	6-6		26	Emporia State
31	Marion, BrockS	5-11	189	24	Nevada
67	Maryland, Russell DT	6-1	279	25	Miami
21	Mason, MarkRB	5-7	189	22	Maryland
64	Mays, MarvinDE	6-3	262	25	SE Oklahoma
57	McClanahan, Anthony LB	6-1	238	23	Washington Stat
99	McCormack, HurvinDT	6-5	271	22	Indiana
54	Milts, Toby	6-0	270	23	Arizona State
49	Mundy, AaronTE	6-5	252	23	Virginia.
98	Myles, GodfreyLB	6-1	242	26	Florida
61		6-3			
	Newton, Nate		325	33	Florida A&M
84	Novacek, JayTE	6-4	232	32	Wyoming
82	Parrish, JamesT	6-6	310	26	Temple
-	Peete, Rodney QB	6-0	207	28	USC
93	Powe, KeithDE		265	25	UTEP
89	Price, Jim TE	6-4	247	28	Stanford
35	Richardson, TonyFB	6-1	224	23	Auburn
87	Sohorp, GregTE	6-3	242	23	Texas A&M
59	Smith, DarrinLB	6-1	227	24	Miami
22	Smith, Emmitt	5-9	209	25	Florida
82	Smith, Jimmy WR	6-1	205	25	Jackson State
26	Smith, Kevin CB	5-11	180	24	Texas A&M
		6-2			
53	Stepnoski, MarkC		264	27	Pittsburgh
65	Stone, RonT	6-5	309	23	Boston College
41	Thomas, DaveCB	6-2	208	26	Tennessee
92	Tolbert, TonyDE	6-6	263	27	UTEP
71	Tuinei, MarkT	6-5	305	34	Hawaii
91	Vanderbeek, Matt LB	6-3	243	27	Michigan State
GA.U	Wagner, KeithT	6-4	302	24	Abilene Christian
	Washington, James S	6-1	209	29	UCLA
	THEORING UNITED TOTAL	6-1		22	
37	Wilking loff V		180		Youngstown St.
37 14	Wilkins, Jeff		004		
37 14 79	Williams, ErikT	6-6	324	26	Central State
37 14 79 85	Williams, ErikT Williams, KevinWR	6-6 6-9	192	23	Miami
37 14 79 85 74	Williams, Erik	6-6 6-9 6-2	192 290	23 26	Miami Mississippi St.
37 14 79 85 74 86	Williams, ErikT Williams, KevinWR Williams, NateDT Williams, TyroneWR	6-6 6-9 6-2 6-5	192 290 220	23 26 24	Miami Mississippi St. Western Ontario
37 14 79 85 74 86 42	Williams, Erik	6-6 6-9 6-2 6-5 6-0	192 290 220 258	23 26 24 25	Miami Mississippi St. Western Ontario Texas A&M
76 37 14 79 85 74 86 42 28	Williams, ErikT Williams, KevinWR Williams, NateDT Williams, TyroneWR	6-6 6-9 6-2 6-5	192 290 220	23 26 24	Miami Mississippi St. Western Ontario

D	R.	LF.	PI	м	38	
	22	-	rie.	-	-	

rd.	name p	os	nt	W	college	
1	Carver, Shante	DE	6-5	240	Arizona State	Ī
2	Allen, Larry	DL	6-3	325	Sonoma State	
3	Hegamin, George I	OT.	6-7	355	N.C. State	
4	Jackson, Willie V	VR-	6-1	195	Florida	
4	Dotson, DeWayne	LB	6-1	250	Mississippi	
6	Studstill, Darren (28	6-2	185	West Virginia	
7	McIntosh, Toddrick I	TC	6-3	270	Florida State	

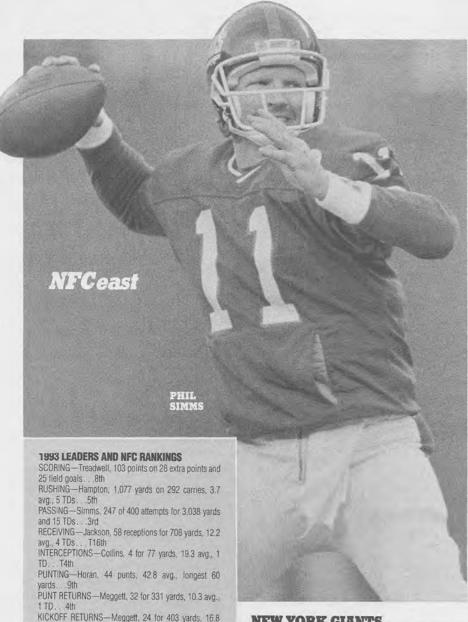
Aikman's blockers remain an effective group, but the loss of Gogan and Gesek hurts. Tackles Mark Tuinei on the left and Erik Williams on the right provide outstanding bookends, but Gogan, the starting right guard opposite Pro Bowler Nate Newton, backed up both, so the Cowboys signed free agent Derek Kennard from the New Orleans Saints and drafted huge Larry Allen from tiny Sonoma State. Allen will have to learn guard and tackle positions as a rookie without a big-time background, a lot to ask. Center Mark Stepnoski is coming off major knee surgery that dropped him under 250 pounds during rehab. Frank Cornish is the backup.

When Butch Davis replaced Dave Wannstedt as defensive coordinator last year, he turned the No. 1-ranked team in yardage allowed into an even stingier group in points allowed. Speed remains the unit's greatest asset and replacing Norton its greatest challenge. With pass rusher Haley coming off surgery to correct a ruptured disk in his back, Jones wanted to trade Harper to get USC's Willie McGinest. He settled for Arizona State's Shante Carver instead, an undersized speed rusher who should provide relief if Haley is unavailable. The defense will count more heavily on tackles Lett and Maryland and veteran ends Jim Jeffcoat and Tony Tolbert now that the departure of Casillas and Jones will prevent their normal rotation. Darrin Smith was outstanding as a rookie weakside linebacker and Dixon Edwards and Godfrey Myles patrol the other side. Inside, the Cowboys still have former starter Robert Jones, neither as fast nor as good as Norton. Kevin Smith has devel-



oped into one of the league's top corners and Larry Brown is steady on the other side. Darren Woodson is coming into his own at strong safety, and the task of replacing the traded Everett falls to James Washington, who was merely a Super Bowl hero. Kenny Gant, Brock Marion, Elvis Patterson, and the ageless Bill Bates provide quality depth.

The Cowboys lost place-kicker Eddie Murray to the Eagles, but figure there are more where he came from—the street. John Jett was better than average as a rookie punter for an offense that seldom finds itself in trouble.



NEW YORK GIANTS

Dan Reeves became NFC Coach of the Year after transplanting many of his Denver Broncos to New York and proving he can beat NFC teams after all. An encore beckons, but something is missing. He's Lawrence Taylor, finally retired after 13 seasons as the man who did no less than change the way pro football is played. It was time, because Taylor no longer terrorized entire offenses the way he once did. Still, his absence will leave New York and the NFL with a void impossible to fill. Fans have searched for the next L.T. for a decade now and will continue to look in vain.

The Giants took the Cowboys to the wire before losing in overtime for the NFC East title, meaning they would have to take their playoff show on the road. It came to an inauspicious halt in San Francisco, where the 49ers exposed them, 44-3. Despite the sour taste that pounding left in their mouths, the Giants are feeling much better about themselves than they did a year ago, when they were rebounding from the short Ray Handley era. This is a team with possibilities, despite significant losses in free agency. Two starters in the de-

fensive backfield-cornerback Mark Collins (Chiefs) and strong safety Myron Guyton (Patriots)-have left. Two offensive linemen who were starting by the end of the season-tackle Eric Moore (Bengals) and guard Bob Kratch (Patriots)—also are gone. Their departures confirmed the fears of general manager George Young, who predicted that successful teams soon would be paying the piper, and the piper's name was Mr. Cap. Stockpiling quality depth is no longer an option. Running back Lewis Tillman, tired of his backup role to ironman Rodney Hampton, left for Chicago to prove he could start somewhere. The Bears were happy to accommodate.

So once again, Reeves's hopes rest on the shoulders of Phil Simms, who underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right shoulder in the offseason. He will be 39 in November, but is coming off one of his best years and his second Pro Bowl trip in 15. He did not throw an interception during the final six regular-season games. If this is Simms's final season, as his contract and intentions indicate, 1992 supplemental No. 1 draft choice Dave Brown is

RODNEY HAMPTON

going to have to step up and show he can beat out third-year find Kent Graham as the quarterback of the future.

Receiving is a question mark for the Giants, who lost Mike Sherrard in the middle of an outstanding year to a serious hip injury that leaves his future shaky. Known for coming back from injury, Sherrard nevertheless causes enough alarm that the Giants spent

SACKS-Hamilton, 11.5 sacks...T3rd PRESEASON SCHEDULE

average...16th

30 MIAMI (N) CLEVELAND (N) San Diego at Berlin, Germany At N.Y. Jets (N)

At Chicago (N)

1994 SC	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	PHILADELPHIA	21-10
	11		6-17
	18	WASHINGTON	20-6
	25	OPEN DATE	
October	2	At New Orleans	24-14
	10	MINNESOTA (N)	
	16		20-10
	23	PITTSBURGH	
	30		-
November	7	At Dallas (N)	9-31
	13	ARIZONA	19-17
	21	At Houston (N)	
	27		41-7
December	4	At Cleveland	
	11	CINCINNATI	
	18	At Philadelphia	7-3
	24	DALLAS	13-16

their No. 1 draft choice on Indiana's Thomas Lewis and then traded for another of Reeves's ex-Broncos, Arthur Marshall. Former Bronco Mark Jackson caught more passes than he ever did in Denver, but he was cut in May. Chris Calloway had back surgery in February and Ed McCaffrey is a capable third-down man. Keith Crawford and Eric Weir will get camp looks at a position in need of a surprise. At tight end, Howard Cross has developed into one of the league's best, leading the club with five TD receptions and continuing as an excellent blocker. H-back Aaron Pierce and backup Derek Brown keep the Giants strong in this area, although Brown has yet to live up to No. 1 draft-choice potential.

Hampton missed four games with knee and ankle injuries and still became the first runner to gain 1,000 yards three years in a row for the Giants. He's a workhorse whose longest run of



the season, 51 yards, broke the Vikings' backs in the playoffs. Fullback Jarrod Bunch was hampered by a bronchial infection that enabled Kenyon Rasheed to start three games. Dave Meggett remains one of the league's best third-down threats both running and receiving and last year added two touchdown passes to his repertoire, enough to keep defensive coordinators awake screaming. To replace the valuable Tillman, the Giants drafted Gary Downs of North Carolina State in the third round.

The health of left tackle Jumbo Elliott is another concern. He is coming off back surgery after struggling until he could no longer play the final five games. Moore replaced him because Clarence Jones wasn't ready, so Moore's exit puts pressure on Elliott to be ready. The Giants re-signed right tackle Doug Riesenberg and lured right guard Lance Smith from the Cardinals to replace Kratch. They also retained Brian Williams, who may supplant Bart Oates after sharing time at center. William Roberts is solid at left guard, with

second-year players Scott Davis and Greg Bishop and draftee Jason Winrow expected to provide depth.

On defense, the Giants enter their first season since 1981 without Taylor's presence lurking. He missed the first four games in 1988 for substance abuse and made up for it with 151/2 sacks, the second-best total of his career. Who will replace him? If fourth-year man Kanavis McGhee can't shake leg injuries and step up, look for second-year prospects Jessie Armstead and Marcus Buckley to contend. Both were impressive on special teams, nickel situations, and sub roles as rookies. Corey Miller was outstanding in his first full-time job at left linebacker, replacing Carl Banks and finishing with 61/2 sacks. Inside, ex-Bronco Michael Brooks was the leader of the defense and deserved more postseason recognition than he got. Former Bills backup Carlton Bailey led the club in tackles at his inside spot. Andre Powell looks promising

Up front, Keith Hamilton is developing into a feared rusher. He was sixth in the NFC with 11½ sacks in his first full season as starting left end. The Giants are hoping second-year man Michael Strahan can shake the injuries that hampered his rookie season, limiting him to nine games after a promising camp. Mike Fox started all 16 games at right end and had 4½ sacks, so Strahan has a challenge. Stacey Dillard was so impressive on the nose that veteran Erik Howard had to share time when he was healthy. The Giants drafted Chris Maumalanga and Chad Bratzke to compete with Steve Brannon for reserve spots.

The secondary will undergo an overhaul with the departure of steady starters Guyton and Collins, both coming off outstanding sea-



sons. Drafting cornerback Thomas Randolph of Kansas State and safety Jason Sehorn of USC in the second round revealed concern. Corners Phillippi Sparks and Perry Williams are returning from injury to join Corey Raymond, who replaced Sparks on the right side halfway through the schedule. Undrafted rookie Willie Beamon showed promise as a rookie and will figure in the revamping job. Former Eagle Jesse Campbell and former Bear David Tate also are available. Free safety Greg Jackson tied Collins for the team lead in interceptions with four.

Meggett continues to provide outstanding punt- and kick-return capability, joining former Denver kickers Brad Daluiso and Mike Horan, whose net punting average of 39.9 yards led the NFL, on the special teams.

	GIANTS					
-					_	college
8	Armstead Jessie	LB	6-1	238	24	Miami
4	Bailey, Carlton	LB	5-3	235	30	North Carolina
3	Beamon, Willie	. CB	5-11	170	24	Northern Iowa
8	Bishop Greg		6-5	298	23	Pacific
0	Brannen Steve	DE	6-3	285	26	Hampton
4	Brooks, Michael	LB	6-1	235	30	LSU
7	Brown, Dave	DB	6-5	215	24	Duke
6	Brown, Derek	TE	6-6	252	24	Notre Dame
5	Buckley, Marcus	· LB	6-3	235	23	Texas A&M
3	Bunch, Jarrod	FB	6-2	248	26	Michigan
0	Calloway, Chris	WR	5-10	185	26	Michigan
7	Campbell Jesse	5	6-1	215	25	N.C. State
5	Crawford Keith	WR	6-2	180	24	Howard Payne
7	Cross Howard	TE	6-5	245	27	Alabama
3	Daluiso, Brad	PK	6-2	207	27	UCLA
2	Armsfead, Jessue Bailey, Carlton Beamon, Willie Bishors, Greg Brannon, Sieve Brooks, Michael Brown, Dave Brown, Dave Brown, Dave Brown, Dave Brown, Dave Brown, Dave Brown, Dave Brown, Dave Brown, Dave Brown, Chis Campbell, Jesse Crawford, Keith Cross, Howard, Daluiso, Brad Davis, Scott	G	6-3	289	24	lowa -
8	Dent. Burnell	LB	6-2	235	31	Tulane
4	Dillard Stacev	NT	6-5	288	26	Oklahoma
B	Filioti John	T	6-7	305	29	Michigan
5	Flythe Mark	DE	6-7	290	26	Penn State
3	Fox Mike	DE	6-6	275	27	West Virginia
0	Graham Kent	AR	6.5	220	26	Ohio State
5	Hamilton Keds	DE	6.6	280	23	Pittshurah
7	Daluso, Brad Joans, Scott. Deni Burnell Diligari, Stacey Etilott, John Flythe, Mark Fox, Mike. Graham, Kenth Hampton, Rodrey Horan, Mike. Howard, Erik Jackson, Greg Jenkins, Izel Jenkins, Izel Jenkins, Izel Jenkins, Izel	RR	5.11	215	25	General
2	Horan Mike	p	5.11	100	36	Long Beach St
4	Howard Frit	NT	B.d	260	30	Washington St. LSU
7	Jankson Grun	Q.	8-1	200	28	1 511
M.	Jackson, Greg Jenkins, Izel Johnson, Chuck Jones, Clarence Kozlowski, Brian Marshall, Arthur	FR	5-10	100	30	N.C. Stoke
4	Johnson Physik	_ UD	6.2	1,00	25	Toyoc
8	Johnson, Chuck	T	6.6	200	20	Managani
6	Jones, Clarence Kozlowski, Brian Marshall, Arthur	TE	0.0	200	774	Congodina
D	Attached Attace	ME	D-53	173	700	Conmis
1 -	McGarrey, Ed	WH	D-0	210	20	Stanton
0	McGhee Kanavis Meggett David Miller Corey Oates Bart Pierce Aaron Powell Andre	.UE	D-4	200	20	Colorado
U	Meggett, David	HH	5-1	180	28	Towson State
1	Miller Corey	1.8	5+2	255	20	Sorth Catolina
13	Uales Bait	0	D+3	200	30	BYU
4	Pierce, Aaron	HR	0-5	246	25	washington
1	Powell, Andre	LB	6-1	226	25	Penn State
19	Raymond, Corey	CB	5-11	180	25	LSU
2	Raymond, Corey Riesenberg, Doug	1	6-5	275	29	California
6	Roberts, William Sherrard, Mike Simms, Phil	J	6-5	280	32	Ofrio State
8	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	187	31	UCLA
1	Simms, Phil Smith Joey Smith Lance Sparks, Phillippi Strate, Michael Tale, David	QB.	6-3	214	39	Morehead Stati
	Smith Joey	DB	5-10	190	25	Louisville
Į.	Smith, Lance	G	6-3	285	31	LSU
2	Sparks Philippi	CB	5-11	188	25	Arizona State
2	Strahan, Michael	.DE	6-4	253	23	Texas Southern
9	Tate, David	S	6-1	200	30	Colorado
17	Thigpen, Tommy	. LB	6-2	242	23	North Carolina
12	Weir Erio	WR	6-2	175	24	Vanderbill
0	Widmer Corey	LB	6-3	276	26	Montana State
g	Stranan, Michael Tale, David Thigpen, Tommy Weir, Eric Widmen, Corey Williams, Brian Williams, Perry	C	6-5	300	28	Minnesota
3	Williams, Perry	CB	6-2	203	33	N.C. State
		1220				
d.	name	nos	IFT.	wif	inl	lege.
1	Lewis, Thomas Randolph, Thomas Sehorn, Jason Downs, Gary	WR	6.2	190	Ind	ana
2	Randolph Thomas	CR	5.0	178	Kar	isas State
5	Sphorn Jason	DR	B-1	218	119	P.
3	Downs Gary	RB	6-2	212	N.C	State
4	Maumalanga, Chris Bratze Chad. Winrow, Jason	DI	6.3	205	Kar	PROF
	IAIGNILIGIDALÂY OULS	-CML	0.0	20.00	and)	MAN .
2	Bratio Charl	DE	6.A	268	Fpc	tern Kenlocku

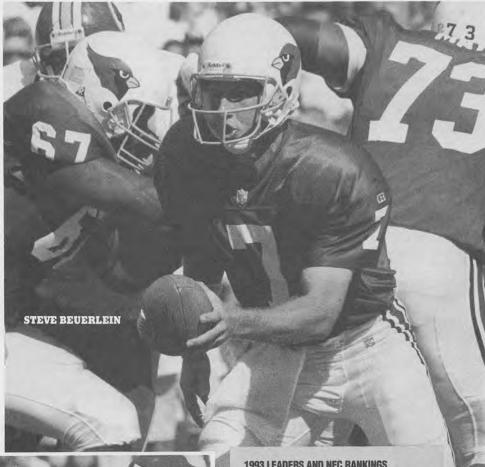
ARIZONA CARDINALS

Buddy Ryan is back, wildly successful in Arizona before his Cardinals ever play a game. Before the draft, team owner, Billy Bidwill had sold more than 40,000 season tickets, up from 26,000 last year.

"You've got a winner in town," Ryan boasted as soon as Bidwill rescued him from potential oblivion after Ryan poked fellow coordinator Kevin Gilbride on the Houston sidelines. Always as subtle as a fist, Ryan takes over a team with promise in a division that is suddenly more vulnerable than it ever was for predecessor Joe Bugel.

"This is a lot better team than the one I took over in Philadelphia," Ryan said, referring to the 1986 Eagles. In three years, he had won the division title in the tough NFC East. That he never won a playoff game in three tries spelled Ryan's eventual doom. Now he has outlasted Norman Braman, "the guy in France" owner of the Eagles who fired him. And Bidwill displayed a stroke of genius by naming Ryan not only coach but general manager, insuring that Ryan couldn't start a feud with himself. "We'll get along real fine. Both Buddys have great personalities," Ryan said.

Ryan opened shop by raiding Braman's Eagles of defensive stars Clyde Simmons and Seth Joyner as the last act of defiance before Braman sold the team. It is the defense that Ryan feels needs the most help, and where he feels most comfortable helping. The offense was outscored only by the 49ers, Cowboys, and Packers in the NFC, and if last year's top draft choice, Garrison Hearst, can crawl out of Ryan's doghouse, it could be better. Steve





1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING-Davis, 100 points on 37 extra points and 21 field goals ... 10th

RUSHING—Moore, 1,018 yards on 263 carries, 3.9 avg., 9 TDs...7th

PASSING-Beuerlein, 258 of 418 attempts for 3,164 yards and 18 TDs...6th

RECEIVING-Centers, 66 receptions for 603 yards, 9.1 avg., 3 TDs...T9th

INTERCEPTIONS-Lynch, 3 for 13 yards, 4.3 aver-

PUNTING-Camarillo, 73 punts, 43.7 avg., longest 61 yards . . . 3rd

PUNT RETURNS-Bailey, 35 for 282 yards, 8.1 avg., 1

KICKOFF RETURNS-Bailey, 31 for 699 yards, 22.5 average. . .5th

SACKS-Harvey, 9.5 sacks...T6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

5 SAN FRANCISCO (N)

CHICAGO (N)

19 At Detroit (N)

	25	At Denver (N)	
1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	At L.A. Rams	38-10
	11	N.Y. GIANTS (N)	17-6
	18	At Cleveland	
	25	OPEN DATE	
October	2	MINNESOTA	
	9	At Dallas	15-20
	16	At Washington	17-10
	23	DALLAS	10-17
	30	PITTSBURGH (N)	
November	6	At Philageinnia	1/-/3
	13	At N.Y. Giants	17-19
	20	PHILADELPHIA	16-3
	27		
December	4	At Houston	-
	11	WASHINGTON	36-6
	18	CINCINNATI	
	24	At Atlanta	

Beuerlein will become the first quarterback to start for the Cardinals two consecutive years since the team moved to Arizona in 1988. In his first full year as an NFL starter, Beuerlein set career highs in completions, attempts, yards, touchdowns, percentage, and passer rating. Ryan likes young ex-Bear Will Furrer and old ex-Bear, ex-Charger, ex-Eagle, ex-Viking Jim McMahon as backups.

Hearst's rehabilitation from major knee surgery was not progressing to Ryan's satisfaction when he offered the young prospect in pre-draft trade talks. If he's healthy, Hearst has the ability to elevate the Cards to a new level. If not, Ryan still has a 1,000-yard rusher in Ron Moore, a fourth-round find a year ago who is so good the Cardinals are talking about pairing him with Hearst if possible. Fullback and third-down back Larry Centers was pursued in free agency and kept after Ryan gave up on the versatile but small Johnny Bailey. To replace Bailey, the Cards drafted the University of Arizona's Chuck Levy, who figures to help in seven ways, fitting nicely in the new cap system that puts a premium on versatility. Besides serving as a third-down specialist, Levy will return punts and kickoffs and can serve as a holder, a backup wide receiver, a two-point option quarterback, and an emergency quarterback.

The receiving trio of Gary Clark, Randal Hill, and Ricky Proehl compares favorably with any group in the league as long as Clark can continue to stave off age. He's 32 and still tough. Losing blocking tight end Walter Reeves to Cleveland leaves only Derek Ware, with young Chad Fann and sixth-round draftee Terry Samuels to help.

On the offensive line, last year's highly rated rookies, Ernest Dye and Ben Coleman, are



expected to start at the guard spots to replace the departed Lance Smith (Giants) and Mark May, with veteran Joe Wolf backing up. Dye and Coleman both were victims of knee injuries last year, part of the injury jinx that helped sink Bugel. Left tackle Luis Sharpe is still going strong after 182 starts in 12 years. Right tackle Rick Cunningham, unmistakable at 6-7 and 320 pounds, and Sharpe each started all 16 games last year and center Ed Cunningham started 15. The line allowed just 33 sacks, the fewest since 1978 for the Cards. Third-rounder Rich Braham will join Wolf, Mark Tuckey, Mike Moody, and fifth-rounder Anthony Redmon in the fight for reserve roles.

The defense allowed only 27 touchdowns, the fewest by the Cardinals since the merger. But Ryan will completely revamp Fritz Shur-

mur's "Big Nickel" alignment of five backs and install his own brand instead. He has many tools with which to work, starting with 24-year-old tackle Eric Swann. Already, Ryan is comparing Swann favorably with the great tackles he has coached, such as Philadelphia's Jerome Brown, Chicago's Dan Hampton, Houston's Ray Childress, and Minnesota's Alan Page. "Darndest thing I've ever seen," Ryan said when studying the huge, powerful Swann. Playing only nine games because of a knee injury, Swann had the kind of game on October 17 against Washington that



inspires legend. He made 12 tackles, forced and recovered a fumble, had two sacks, two hurries, and a safety. Ryan's problem is finding people to surround him. He started in Philadelphia with Simmons, who had 19 sacks the last year he played with Reggie White, but dropped to five without White. He will play right end, with Swann at left tackle. Who will play between them? Keith Rucker might if he isn't too fat. End Michael Bankston could move over if somebody else can play left end. Chad Brown and third-round draft pick Eric England are candidates for the left side.

Joyner will make whoever plays left end more effective. He might be the best outside linebacker in the league. That Ryan pursued him over Wilber Marshall is a telling endorsement. In the middle, Ryan's reliance on a heady presence could finally reward Eric Hill with overdo recognition. He may be the best unknown player in football. On draft day, Ryan handed the right-linebacker spot to first pick Jamir Miller of UCLA, who will have to adjust to the rigors and discipline of the pros and Rvan's defense at the tender age of 20. He won't turn 21 until November. Veterans Garth Jax. Tyronne Stowe, Brett Wallerstedt, and David Braxton are the backups, along with fourth-rounder Terry Irving.

Cornerback Robert Massey signed with the Lions, so the Cards traded with the Bills for J.D. Williams, who will play opposite left cor-

ner Aeneas Williams, no relation. Like Hill, Aeneas Williams is a player waiting to be discovered. Former corner Lorenzo Lynch is Ryan's strong safety, the linebacker type important to the "46" alignment. Michael Zordich made the high-priced Chuck Cecil expendable at free safety. Versatile John Booty, speedy Steve Lofton, and special-teams' ace Odie Harris will be joined by mid-round draft choices Perry Carter and John Reece in the secondary.

Ryan released the popular and productive punter Rich Camarillo for the less expensive Jeff Feagles of the Eagles, admittedly sacrificing a yard or two in average for several hundred thousand dollars, a concession to Mr. Salary Cap. Greg Davis is a solid place-kicker; Levy should take over the return chores.

CARDINALS VETERAN ROSTER

Bankston, Michael DL

72 55 75

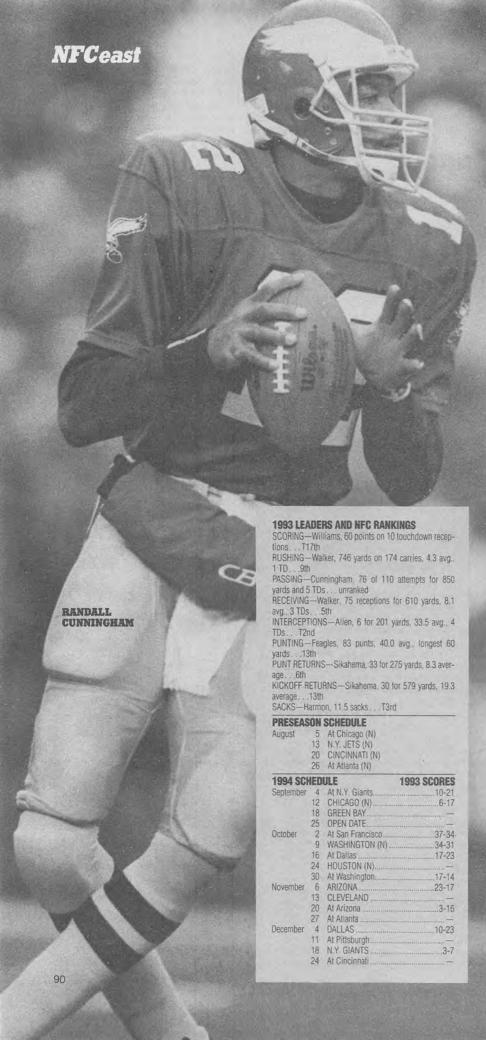
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6-3 280 24 Sam Houston St.

70	Daxiey, NOU	0-0	200	60	IUWG
89	Beach, PatTE	6-4	250	35	Washington State
7	Beuerlein, Steve QB	6-3	210	29	Notre Dame
25	Blount, EricRB	5-9	200	24	North Carolina
42	Booty, JohnS	6-0	180	29	Texas Christian
54	Braxton, DavidLB	6-2	240	29	Wake Forest
78	Brown, ChadDE	6-7	265	23	Mississippi
26	Cecil, ChuckFS	6-0	185	30	Arizona
37	Centers, LarryRB	5-11	215	26	Stephen F Austin
17	Chandler, Chris QB	6-4	225	29	Washington
84	Clark, GaryWR	5-9	175	32	James Madison
62	Coleman, BenT	6-6	335	23	Wake Forest
11	Cook, MikeWR	6-4	205	23	Stanford
59	Cunningham, Ed C	6-3	285	25	Washington
64	Cunningham, RickT	6-7	320	27	Texas A&M
5	Davis, GregK	6-0	205	29	The Citadel
22	Duerson, DaveSS	6-1	220	34	Notre Dame
65	Dye, ErnestT	6-6	325	23	South Carolina
83	Edwards, Anthony WR	5-10	190	28	N. Mex. Highlands
80	Fann, ChadTE	6-3	250	24	Florida A&M
	Feagles, JeffP		205	28	Miami
2	Furrer, Will QB			26	Virginia Tech
31	Harris, OdieS	6-0	190	28	Sam Houston St.
23	Hearst, GarrisonRB		215	23	Georgia
58	Hill, EricLB			28	LSU
81	Hill, RandalWR	5-10	180	25	Miami
97	Hyche, SteveLB			31	Livingstan
80	Jackson, RobertWR	6-2	200	25	Central State
53	Jax Garth LB	6-2	250	31	Florida State

ы	Jackson, Roberts with	0-2	200	20	Othinal State
3	Jax, Garth LB	6-2	250	31	Florida State
2	Johnson, Chuckie DT	6-4	310	25	Auburn
i	Jones, JockLB	6-3	240	26	Virginia Tech
5	Jones, MikeDE	6-4	295	25	N.C. State
	Joyner, SethLB	6-2	235	30	UTEP
	Kirk, Randy LB	6-2	231	30	San Diego St.
3	Lewis, LanceRB	5-11	224	24	Nebraska
3	Lolton, Steve CB	5-9	185	26	Texas A&M
3	Lynch, Lorenzo CB	5-11	200	31	Cal-Sacramento
4	Merritt, DavidLB		237	23	N.C. State
4	Moody, MikeT	6-7	305	25	USC
0	Moore, RonRB	5-10	220	24	Pittsburg State
0	Nunn, Freddie Joe DE	6-5	255	32	Mississippi
7	Oldham, Chris CB	5-10		26	Oregon
6	Perez, ChrisOL	6-6	295	25	Kansas
7	Proehl, RickyWR	6-0	190	26	Wake Forest
2	Rolle, Butch HB/TE	6-4		30	Michigan State
9	Rucker, KeithDL	6-4		26	Ohio Wesleyan
7	Sharpe, Luis,T	6-5	280	34	UCLA
	Simmons, Clyde DE	6-6	280	30	Western Carolina
0	Stowe, TyronneLB		250	29	Rutgers
8	Swann, EricDT	6-5	295	24	None
1	Tucker, Mark		290	26	
2	Wallerstedt, Brett LB	6-1	240	24	Arizona State
5	Ware, Derek HB/TE	6-3			Central State
5	Williams, Aeneas CB	5-10		26	Southern
8	Wolf, JoeDL	6-6	296	28	Boston College
8	Zordich, MichaelS	6-1	201	31	Penn State
			_	_	

ra	name	DRA pos		wt	college
1	Miller, Jamir	LB	6-4	235	UCLA
2	Lew, Chuck	RB	6-0	199	Arizona
2	Ruddy, Tim*		6-1	270	Notre Dame
3			6-5	260	West Virginia
3	England, Eric	DE	6-2	283	Texas A&M
4			6-1	190	Southern Miss
4	Reece, John		6-0	200	Nebraska
	Irving, Terry		6-2	225	McNeese State
	Redmon, Anthony.		6-5	288	Auburn
	Samuels, Terry		6-2	245	Kentucky
	Harvey, Frank		6-0	237	Georgia



PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Rich Kotite is the dean of coaches in the NFC East. He earned the distinction in three years, all of which means nothing to the Eagles' new owner, Jeffrey Lurie. Norman Braman hired Kotite after firing Buddy Ryan, so whatever sense of security that knowledge provided Kotite has disappeared with the \$185 million Lurie paid for the club. The outstanding job Kotite did last season in keeping a sinking ship afloat will mean little to a new boss who loves the NFL draft so much he used to hole up in front of ESPN and study lists. For Kotite's sake, it can be assumed Lurie is familiar with the list of good players who have punched a one-way ticket out of Philadelphia over the last two years.

As if two major injuries in three years to star quarterback Randall Cunningham weren't enough to discourage any coach, defensive end Clyde Simmons and linebacker Seth Joyner signed with Buddy Ryan's Cardinals this offseason, following the exodus that began with Keith Jackson, Reggie White, and Keith Byars. Despite the turmoil and uncertainty, including dire predictions of last-place



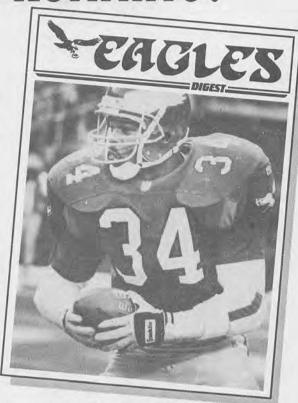
finishes in some circles, Kotite managed an 8-8 record, enough to earn him some consideration for Coach of the Year. With Cunningham, they were 4-0. After losing eight of their next nine, they finished on a three-game winning streak. During the losing, they got better, a tribute to coaching. None of their last four defeats was by more than a touchdown.

Cunningham returns after suffering a broken left fibula against the Jets on October 3. He has finished only 19 games in three seasons now and is 31 years old. The Eagles can thank cornerback Eric Allen for prolonging Cunningham's career. As Allen ran into the end zone at the end of a spectacular 94-yard interception return to beat the Jets, he handed the ball to Cunningham, who was standing on crutches, so depressed he admitted that he had decided to retire. Allen's gesture energized Cunningham and convinced him to per-

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sist. At the draft, Cunningham received another setback when it was reported the Eagles had mentioned his name in trade talks while maneuvering for a higher first-round choice. Cunningham was upset.

"His name wasn't the only one that came up," said Eagles vice president John Wooten. "When you're talking about moving up in the draft, a lot of names get called. The real deal is simple: Randall Cunningham is a Philadelphia Eagle."

Cunningham is the Philadelphia Eagle. If he isn't shell-shocked by the two leg injuries, he

EAGLES VETERAN ROSTER

remains the most dangerous one-man wrecking crew in football. Here's a guess: He will remain as close to the pocket as possible for as long as possible. In Cunningham's absence, Bubby Brister looked like more than a journeyman quarterback. The ex-Steeler was the NFC's fourth-ranked passer and set a club record with his ratio of touchdown passes to interceptions (14-5). After flirting with the Saints, Brister re-signed with the Eagles as proven insurance.

Losing Cunningham was the most obvious blow, but the Eagles also lost Pro Bowl receiver Fred Barnett for the final 12 games with a torn anterior cruciate ligament. His absence coincided with Cunningham's and robbed Brister of a much-needed threat. Yet the Eagles endured. Calvin Williams emerged as a touchdown-maker, snagging 10 passes for scores, ranking him behind only Jerry Rice, Andre Rison, and Sterling Sharpe. Victor Bailey developed fast to become the top rookie receiver in the NFC. With Michael Young joining the mix, Cunningham should have an impressive stable of wideouts at his disposal. Tight end Mark Bavaro was the comeback player of the year in many minds, with 43 receptions and six touchdowns on legs supposedly long gone. Hard to believe, but he caught more passes than Keith Jackson did in Miami and always has been the superior blocker. Maurice Johnson is the backup.

The Eagles drafted little Charlie Garner of Tennessee to provide speed and dash to the running attack. At 5-8 and 180 pounds, Garner probably won't be asked to absorb full-time pounding, but as a change of pace from Herschel Walker and James Joseph, he may make it difficult for Heath Sherman and Vaughn Hebron to find suitable playing time. A great athlete with great moves, Garner can catch and add an ingredient missing in the offense for years. The Eagles finished in the middle of the pack in rushing, with Walker averaging a respectable 4.3 yards, but Herschel is 32 years old and not getting any faster.

Help for Cunningham up front arrives with two of the top four draft picks: huge tackle Bernard Williams and tough guard Joe Panos. The Eagles hope the 6-9, 320-pound Williams can play the left side and provide help for 34-year-old Broderick Thompson, who missed the second half of last season with an injured calf. Left guard Eric Floyd also missed the last 13 games with a knee injury, so Panos can be a factor along with veterans Mike Schad and Ron Hallstrom. Center Dave Alexander received team MVP votes and has started 92 consecutive games despite the constant change around him. Lester Holmes came on as a rookie at right guard next to big Antone Davis at tackle. Other backups include Tom McHale and John Hudson.

Defensive coordinator Bud Carson keeps plugging away, filling holes left by players jumping ship. The Eagles signed William Fuller of the Oilers and traded for Burt Grossman of the Chargers to play left and right ends, respectively. They drafted UCLA's giant, 325-pound Bruce Walker, suspended all last season for off-field problems, to fill the middle of the line alongside the active Andy Harmon, the slow-developing Leonard Renfro, and Tommy Jeter and William Perry, a likely dinner companion for Walker. Tim Harris is a situation rusher and Mike Flores a backup.

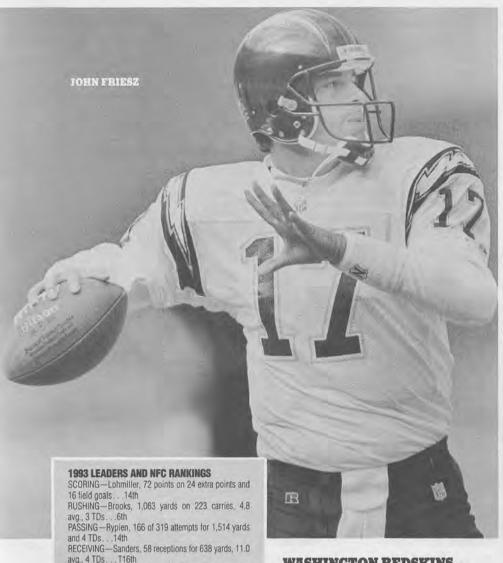
A trade for 49ers linebacker Bill Romanowski will ease the loss of Joyner, with Britt Hager vying for playing time outside and in the middle, where Byron Evans remains a force. Evans is returning from a broken forearm. William Thomas is emerging fast at right linebacker and Derrick Oden provides backup help. Cornerback Allen is as good as they get. He returned four of his six interceptions for touchdowns last year, tying an NFL record. He plays opposite little Mark McMillian. Mike Reid could push strong safety Andre Waters out of job, with Rich Miano slotted for free safety. Rookies Eric Zomalt and Marvin Goodwin will compete with backups Derrick Frazier and Corey Barlow.

The Eagles signed place-kicker Eddie Murray from the Cowboys, but lost punter Jeff Feagles to the Cardinals and kick returner Vai Sikahema to television.

no.	name pos	ht	W	age	college
72	Alexander, DavidC	6-3	275	:30	Tulsa
21	Allen, Eric CB	5-10	180	29	Arizona State
82	Bailey, VictorWR	6-2	196	24	Missouri
62	Baldinger, Brian OL	6-4	278	34	Duke
24	Barlow, Corey CB	5-9	182	24	Aubum
43	Barnett, Alonza CB	6-2	210	25	N. Carolina A&T
86	Barnett, FredWR	6-0	199	28	Arkansas State
84	Bavaro, MarkTE	6-4	245	31	Notre Dame
6.	Brister, Bubby QB	6-3	207	31	NE Louisiana
39	Brooks, TonyRB	6-0	230	25	Notre Dame
64	Brown, CurtDT	6-5	260	24	North Carolina
71	Chalenski, MlkeDL	6-5	288	24	UCLA
12	Cunningham, Randall QB	6-4	205	31	UNLV
78	Davis, AntoneT	6-4	325	27	Tennessee
56	Evans, ByronLB	6-2	235		Arizona
9	Fiedler, Jay QB	6-1	215	23	Dartmouth
95	Flores, MikeDE	6-3	256	28	Louisville
61	Floyd, Eric	6-5	310	29	Auburn
37	Frazier, Derrick CB	5-10	178	24	Texas A&M
33	Frizzell, WilliamS	6-3	206	32	N. Carolina Cent.
93	Fuller, WilliamDE	6-3	274	32	North Carolina
69	Grossman, BurtDE	6-4	275	27	Pittsburgh
54		6-1	225	28	a military and
	Hager, BrittLB				Texas
96	Hall, RayDT	6-4	267	23	Washington State
65	Hallstrom, Ron	6-6	315		- Jowa
91	Harmon, AndyDT	6-4	265	25	Kent State
97	Harris, TimDE	6-6	258	30	Memphis State
45	Hebron, VaughnRB	5-8	196	24	Virginia Tech
73	Holmes, LesterG	6-3	301	25	Jackson State
66	Hudson, JohnOL	6-2	275	26	Aubum
98	Jeter, TommyDT	6-5	282	25	Texas
				27	
87	Johnson, Maurice TE	6-2	243		Temple
32	Joseph, James RB	6-2	222	27	Auburn
19	Lawrence, Reggie WR	6-0	178	24	N.C. State
35	McFadden, Dwight RB	6-0	190	22	USC
24	McGill, JasonWR	6-0	192	22	Georgia Tech
68	McHale, TomG	6-4	290	31	Cornell
88	McKenzie, Mike TE	6-2	247	24	Baylor
29	McMillian, Mark CB	5-7	162	24	Alabama
38	Miano, RichS	6-1	200	32	Hawaii
		5-11		38	Tulane
3	Murray, EddieK		195		
58	Oden, DerrickLB	5-11	230	24	Alabama
26	O'Neal, BrianFB	6-0	233	24	Penn State
90	Perry, WilliamDT Reld, MikeS	6-2	335	32	Clemson
42	Reld, MikeS	6-1	218	24	N.C. State
94	Rentro, Leonard DT	6-2	291	24	Colorado
81	Richardson, PaulWR	6-3	204	25	UCLA
53	Romanowski, Bill LB	6-4	231	28	Boston College
55	Rose, KenLB	6-1	215	32	UNLV
79	Schad, MikeG	6-5	290	31	Queens (Canada)
3	Schrock, ChrisP	6-2	225	24	Boston University
75	Selby, Rob	6-3		27	Auburn
23	Sherman, HealthRB	6-0	205	27	Texas A&I
30	Smith, Otis CB	5-11	184	29	Missouri
85	Sydner, JeffWR	5-6	170	25	Hawali
46	Thomas, MarkusRB	5-10	192	24	Eastern Kentucky
51	Thomas, William LB	6-2	218	26	Texas A&M
		6-5		34	Kansas
76	Thompson, Broderick . T		295		
34	Walker, HerschelRB	6-1	225	32	Georgia
20	Waters, AndreSS	5-11	200		Cheyney
89	Williams, CalvinWR	5-11	190	27	Purdue
57	Woodard, MarcLB	6-0	234	24	Mississippi St.
27	Wooten, AlFB	5-11	232	24	Syracuse
83	Young, Michael WR	6-1	183	32	UCLA

	DRAFTEES							
rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	collega			
1	Williams, Bernard	. OT	6-8	317	Georgia			
2	Walker, Bruce	DE	6-3	326	UCLA			
2	Garner, Charlie	RB	5-9	184	Tennessee			
3	Panos, Joe	G	6-3	290	Wisconsin			
3	Zomalt, Eric	DB	6-0	95	California			
5	Goodwin, Marvin	DB	6-0	199	UCLA			
6	McCoy, Ryan	LB	6-3	240	Houston			
	Berger, Mitch		6-3	220	Colorado			
	Montgomery, Mark		6-1	210	Wisconsin			





WASHINGTON REDSKINS

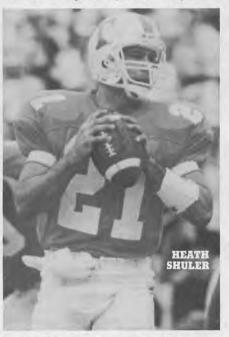
The NFC East beast boasts three new coaches this year and the man in the middle is the Redskins' Norv Turner. The Cardinals tried to hire him after he gave his word to Washington. Had he stayed in Dallas, who knows? Maybe he would have succeeded Jimmy Johnson. Turner picked the Redskins, following in the footsteps of Richie Petitbon, who couldn't guite sustain the Joe Gibbs legacy. The Redskins are a team in need of major rebuilding in a division so competitive that rebuilding is never fashionable. There are three new coaches this year because the NFC East has supplied six of the last eight Super Bowl champs. Peer pressure is the worst kind.

When perusing the Redskin roster, insiders fear that Washington's demanding football fans will soon discover what a good football coach Petitbon was to win four games last year, If Turner likes a challenge, he picked the right place. Gibbs didn't earn a reputation as a genius for nothing. He knew when to fold them. One of the great teams of the '80s was coming apart everywhere he looked. Petitbon only presided over the final unraveling.

Turner will start over with the No. 1 quarterback in the draft, Tennessee's Heath Shuler. As soon as that knowledge suggests comfort, somebody will remind Turner that Troy Aikman's Cowboys finished 1-15 his first season.

Turner was not in Dallas then, so he did not experience the feeling. His primary task in 1994 will be to get Shuler through it in one piece. The Redskins gave up on Mark Rypien, who refused a pay cut three years after winning the Super Bowl. They watched Cary Conklin and Rich Gannon flounder. To provide a cushion for Shuler's entry into the big time, Turner signed San Diego veteran John Friesz, who played well in relief of Stan Humphries last season but not well enough to supplant the former Redskin quarterback that Petitbon always preferred over Rypien. Friesz may start the season until Shuler dries behind his ears, but nobody can realistically expect either quarterback to perform miracles with this suddenly-unrecognizable team. Turner became the only coach to draft two quarterbacks when he selected Tulsa's Gus Frerotte in the seventh round, so it is obvious he is starting from ground zero.

Gone is the Posse. Turner hopes he doesn't have to send a search party to find replacements. Receivers Art Monk and Ricky Sanders, leftovers from the trio that included Gary Clark in 1992, were sent away without fanfare, marking an unfortunate truth of life in the freeagent lane. To underscore their desperation, the Redskins signed 33-year-old Henry Ellard



from the Rams to help replace the 36-year-old Monk and the 32-year-old Sanders. This puts Desmond Howard on an ever-widening spot. The 1991 Heisman Trophy winner is coming off two seasons that have yet to justify him as a first-round draft choice, let alone the fourth pick of the litter. If Howard doesn't begin to remind people of the player who starred at Michigan, Turner will allow third-round draftee Tydus Winans of Fresno State a chance to compare Shuler with his college teammate, Trent Dilfer. The Redskins signed tight end Ethan Horton (Raiders) to complement blocker Ron Middleton, with rookie Kurt Haws backing up. The tight end has a chance to star in Turner's offense.

Running back is the strength of the Redskins and Reggie Brooks is the running back. The Notre Damer outrushed every rookie except his former college teammate, Jerome

PUNTING-Roby, 78 punts, 44.2 avg., longest 60

1994 SCHEDULE 1993 SCORES September 4 SEATTLE At New Orleans .. At N.Y. Giants... 25 ATLANTA. 30-17 October DALLAS 35-16 At Philadelphia (N). 31-34 ARIZONA. 16 23 At Indianapolis PHILADELPHIA November 30 14-17 SAN FRANCISCO 6 13 OPEN DATE .. At Dallas 3-38 20 N.Y. GIANTS 27 7-41 23-17 December At Tampa Bay. 11 At Arizona 6-36 18 TAMPA BAY 6-10 24 At L.A. Rams.

INTERCEPTIONS-Carter, 6 for 54 yards, 9.0 aver-

PUNT RETURNS-Mitchell, 29 for 193 yards, 6.7 aver-

KICKOFF RETURNS-Mitchell, 33 for 678 yards, 20.5

SACKS-Coleman, 6.0 sacks...T13th

8 At Buffalo (N)

26 PITTSBURGH

KANSAS CITY (N)

At New England (N)

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

average...10th

August

Bettis of the Rams. Brooks had the two longest runs of the season in the NFL and was easily the club's MVP. Turner saw the value of a top runner firsthand in Dallas and will not ignore this fact of football fundamentals. Frank Wycheck and Earnest Byner will vie for the fullback position. Ricky Ervins remains talented and almost forgotten and the versatile Brian Mitchell isn't sure if he will fit.

Like the Posse, the Hogs continue their face-lift. Gone is the valuable Joe Jacoby and the reliable Jeff Bostic. Turner brought John Gesek with him to play center and drafted Temple's Tre Johnson to contend at either guard or tackle. Raleigh McKenzie is solid at right guard next to tackle Ed Simmons. Jim Lachey is expected back from injury at left tackle, with Ray Brown at left guard. Mark Schlereth is struggling after making the Pro

status. Jeff Faulkner and Jim Wahler are journeymen. As if to hope against hope, the Redskins drafted a pass rusher named Dexter, last name Nottage, from Florida A&M.

Signing left linebacker Ken Harvey from the Cardinals was the best thing the Redskins did for their defense. With Harvey opposite the productive Andre Collins and the reliable Kurt Gouveia in the middle, the linebacking should be more than adequate. At age 36 and starting his 16th season, Monte Coleman continues to be one of the all-time great role players. The guy tied Andre Collins for most sacks last year with six.

With an ineffective front, the secondary suffers. Darrell Green's age (34) is catching up with his speed at one corner and rookie Tom Carter, despite six interceptions, was too young at the other. He will learn. Inside, safeties Brad Edwards and Danny Copeland are coming off average years. Backups include A. J. Johnson, Alvoid Mays, Johnny Thomas, Todd Bowles, and Darryl Morrison.

For the second year, Chip Lohmiller was unable to live up to his spectacular season of place-kicking in 1991. He is representative of his team. The punter is veteran Reggie Roby. Mitchell led the club in kickoff and punt returns, but he was looking for work elsewhere.

REDSKING VETERAN ROSTER



Bowl two years ago. Mo Elewonibi, Matt Elliott, Darryl Moore, Vernice Smith, Paul Siever, Greg Huntington, and rookie Joseph Patton are in the mix for backup spots and Trevor Matich was signed from the Colts as the long snapper and versatile sub.

Under Petitbon, an acknowledged defensive mastermind, the Redskins plummeted to 26th in yardage allowed and 23rd in points yielded. Clearly, more than coaching was to blame. Petitbon lost the firepower in his front seven with the departure of Wilber Marshall and the decline of Charles Mann and Carl Banks. New coordinator Ron Lynn arrived from Cincinnati to try to correct the problems. Petitbon didn't exactly wish him good luck. The Redskins are putting stock in secondyear rusher Sterling Palmer, who showed promise with 41/2 sacks. Shane Collins, Al Noga, and Jason Buck are among the ends auditioning for a starting job with converted linebacker Tony Woods from the Rams. Tim Johnson is solid at tackle and Lynn is anxiously waiting for a healthy, consistent Bobby Wilson, who has yet to live up to his first-round



29 440 667 999 225 331 551 555 991 661 658 333 327 773 224 664 685 552 232 552 664 675 675 675 675 676 677 677 677 677 677	Bell, William FB Brooks, Reggie RB Brown, Ray T Buck, Jason DE Carter, Tom CB Ciffton, Gregory WR Coleman, Monte LB Collins, Shane DE Davis, Travis DE Dingle, Nate LB Duckett, Tico. EB Edwards, Brd FS Earle, Guy T Eilers, Raf FS Earle, Guy T	5-11 5-8 6-5 6-4 5-11 5-11 6-2 6-3 5-10 6-2 6-4 5-11 6-6 5-11 6-6 6-7 6-4 6-3 6-4 6-4 6-4 6-4 6-4 6-4 6-4 6-4 6-4 6-4	203 202 312 274 181 175 242 231 267 275 256 195 207 290 197 286 182 265 195 305	23 32 31 22 26 36 26 25 28 23 24 28 29 33 26	Georgia Tech Notre Dame Arkansas State BYU Notre Dame Johnson C. Smith Central Arkansas Penn State Arizona State Michigan State Cincinnati Michigan State South Carolina Chadron State Notre Dame BYU
67 999 225 331 551 655 991 661 664 664 665 664 665 665 665 665 666 667 667 667 667 667	Brown, Ray T Buck, Jason De Carter, Tom C8 Clifton, Gregory WR Coleman, Monte L8 Collins, Andre LB Collins, Shane DE Davis, Travis DE Dingle, Nate LB Duckett, Tico RB Edwards, Brad. FS Earle, Guy T Ellard, Henry WR Ellord, Henr	6-5 6-4 5-11 5-11 6-2 6-3 6-2 6-3 5-10 6-2 6-4 5-11 6-6 5-11 6-1 5-7 6-4	312 274 181 175 242 231 267 275 256 195 207 290 197 286 182 265 195	32 31 22 26 36 26 25 28 23 24 28 26 28 29 33	Arkansas Stale BYU Notre Dame Johnson C. Smith Central Arkansas Penn State Arizona State Michigan State Cincinnat! Michigan State South Carolina Chadron State Notre Dame BYU Fresno State
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25 331 351 555 565 561 661 558 333 227 773 224 664 665 552 332 93 562 775 564 990 228	Carter, Tom. C8 Citifon, Gregory. WR Colleman, Monte. L8 Collins, Andre. L8 Collins, Shane. DE Davis, Travis. DE Dingle, Nate. L8 Duckett, Tico. R8 Edwards, Brad. FS Edwards, Brad. FS Elewonbib, Moe. T Ellers, Fal. FS Elewonbib, Moe. T Ellerd, Henry. WR Elliott, Matt. C Ervins, Ricky. R8 Faulkner, Jeff. DE Floyd, Gonzalo. L8 Friesz, John. Q8 Erriesz, John. Q8	5-11 5-11 6-2 6-1 6-3 5-10 6-2 6-4 5-11 6-6 5-11 6-1 5-7 6-4	181 175 242 231 267 275 256 195 207 290 197 286 182 265 195	22 26 36 26 25 28 23 24 28 26 28 29 33	Notre Dame Johnson C. Smith Central Arkansas Penn State Arizona State Michigan State Michigan State South Carolina Chadron State Notre Dame BYU Fresno State
31 551 555 91 661 661 662 773 324 664 665 562 775 564 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 90	Cidino, Gregory. WR Coleman, Monte. LR Collins, Andre LB Collins, Shane DE Davis, Travis DE Dingle, Nate LB Duckett, Tico. RB Edwards, Brad. FS Earle, Guy. Ti Eilers, Par FS Elewonibi, Moe T Eilers, Hart LB Ellott, Matt C Ervins, Ricky. RB Faulkner, Jeff DE Floyd, Gonzalo LB Friesz, John QB	5-11 6-2 6-1 6-3 6-2 6-3 5-10 6-2 6-4 5-11 6-6 5-11 6-1 5-7 6-4	175 242 231 267 275 256 195 207 290 197 286 182 265 195	26 36 26 25 28 23 24 28 26 28 29 33	Johnson C. Smith Central Arkansas Penn State Arizona State Michigan State Cincinnati Michigan State South Carolina Chadron State Notre Dame BYU Fresno State
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555 91 61 658 333 227 773 224 664 685 552 332 93 650 119 652 775 54	Coleman, Monte L.B. Collins, Andre. L.B. Collins, Shane DE Collins, Collins	6-1 6-3 6-2 6-3 5-10 6-2 6-4 5-11 6-6 5-11 6-7 6-4	231 267 275 256 195 207 290 197 286 182 265 195	26 25 28 23 24 28 26 28 29 33	Penn State Arizona State Michigan State Cincinnati Michigan State South Carolina Chadron State Notre Dame BYU Fresno State
91 61 558 333 227 773 224 664 685 552 332 93 662 775 564 990 228	Collins, Shane DE Davis, Travis DE Dingle, Nate LB Duckett, Tico RB Edwards, Brad FS Edwards, Brad FS Elewonibi, Moe T Eilers, Rar FS Elewonibi, Moe T Eilerd, Henry WR Eilloit, Maft C Ervins, Ricky RB Faulkner, Jeff DE Floyd, Gonzalo LB Friesz, John QB	6-3 6-2 6-3 5-10 6-2 6-4 5-11 6-6 5-11 6-7 6-4	267 275 256 195 207 290 197 286 182 265 195	25 28 23 24 28 26 28 29 33	Arizona State Michigan State Cincinnati Michigan State South Carolina Chadron State Notre Dame BYU Fresno State
61 558 333 227 773 224 664 685 552 332 393 550 119 62 775 54 990 228	Davis, Travis DE Dingle, Nate La Douckett, Tico. RB Edwards, Brad. FS Earle, Guy T Eilers, Par FS Elewonibi, Moe T Elland, Henry WR Elloitt, Matt C Ervins, Ricky RB Faulkner, Jeff De Floyd, Gonzalo LB Friesz, John QB	6-2 6-3 5-10 6-2 6-4 5-11 6-6 5-7 6-4	275 256 195 207 290 197 286 182 265 195	28 23 24 28 26 28 29 33	Michigan State Cincinnati Michigan State South Carolina Chadron State Notre Dame BYU Fresno State
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333 227 773 224 664 685 552 332 393 500 119 662 775 54	Duckett, Tico	5-10 6-2 6-4 5-11 6-6 5-11 6-1 5-7 6-4	207 290 197 286 182 265 195	24 28 26 28 29 33	South Carolina Chadron State Notre Dame BYU Fresno State
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62 75 54 90 28		6-4	218	27	Idaho
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54 90 28	Gesek, John	6-5	282	31	Cal St-Sacramento
90					
28	Gouveia, KurtLB	6-1	233 244	28	BYU
	Graf, RickDE	6-5		30	Wisconsin
	Green, DarrellCB	5-8	170	34	Texas A&I
23	Hall, ChrisS	6-2	184	24	East Carolina
56	Hamilton, RickLB		241	24	Central Florida
57	Harvey, KenLB	6-2	245	29	California
6	Hinchchliff, Willie WR	6-0	195	25	None
86	Hobbs, StephenWR	5-11	200	29	North Alabama
95	Hochertz, Martin DE	6-5	269	26	Southern Illinois
96	Hollinquest, Lamont LB	6-3	245	24	USC
89	Horton, Ethan TE	6-6	240	32	North Carolina
80	Howard, DesmondWR	5-9	180	24	Michigan
60	Huntington, GregC	6-3	287	24	Penn State
88	Jenkins, James TE	6-2	241	27	Rutgers
47	Johnson, AJ CB	5-8	175	27	SW Texas State
78	Johnson, TimDT	6-3	275	29	Penn State
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8	Lohmiller, ChipK	6-3	215	29	Minnesota
59	Matich, TrevorC	6-4	297	33	BYU
20	Mays, AlvoidCB	5-9	172	28	West Virginia
63	McKenzie, Raleigh C/G	6-2	277	31	Tennessee
87	Middleton, RonTE	6-2	262	29	Aubum
73	Mills, LamarDE	6-5		23	Indiana
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62	Moore, Darryl G	6-2	292	25	UTEP
37	Morrison, Darryl CB	5-11	185	23	Arizona
4	O'Hara, Pat OB Olobia, Austin WR	6-3		26	USC Washington Chita
10	Ulodia, AustinWR	5-11	195	25	Washington State
45	Owens, Dondre CB	5-9	170	22	Howard
97	Palmer, SterlingDE			23	Florida State
1	Roby, ReggieP	6-2		33	lowa
82	Rowe, RayTE	6-2	256	25	San Diego State
39	Rush, TyroneRB	5-11	196	23	North Alabama
46	Sanemeio, Brian FB	0-0	206	25	North Alabama
69	Schlereth, MarkG	6-3	278	28	Idaho
74	Siever, Paul	6-6	294	25	Penn State
76	Simmons, EdT	6-5	300	31	E. Washington
60	Simmons, Jason DE	6-5	250	24	Ohio State
37	Smith, CedricFB	5-10	222	26	Florida
61	Smith, VerniceG	6-3	298	29	Florida A&M
B4	Stock, MarkWR	6-0		28	VMI
41	Thomas, Johnny CB	5-9	191	30	Baylor
18	Williams, KeithWR	5-10	177	23	San Diego State
94	Wilson, BobbyDT	6-2	297	26	Michigan State
98	Woods, TonyDE	6-4	269	29	Pittsburgh
22	Wycheck, FrankFB	6-3	235	23	Maryland

	DRAFTEES								
İ.	name p	os	ht	wt	college				
1	Shuler, Heath(28	6-2	221	Tennessee				
2	Johnson, Tre	JL	6-3	315	Temple				
	Wynans, Tydus V		5-11	180	Fresno State				
3	Patton, Joe	G	6-5	288	Alabama A&M				
4	Haws, Kurt	TE	6-5	248	Utah				
	Nottage, Dexter		6-4	273	Florida A&M				
	Frerotte, Gus		6-4	226	Tulsa				

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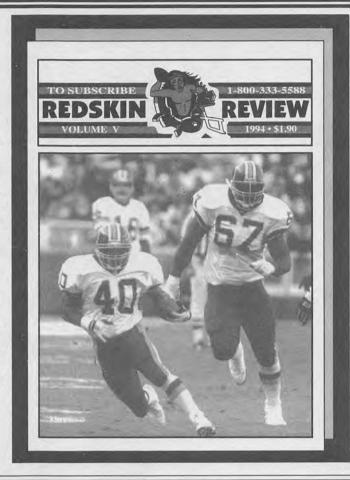
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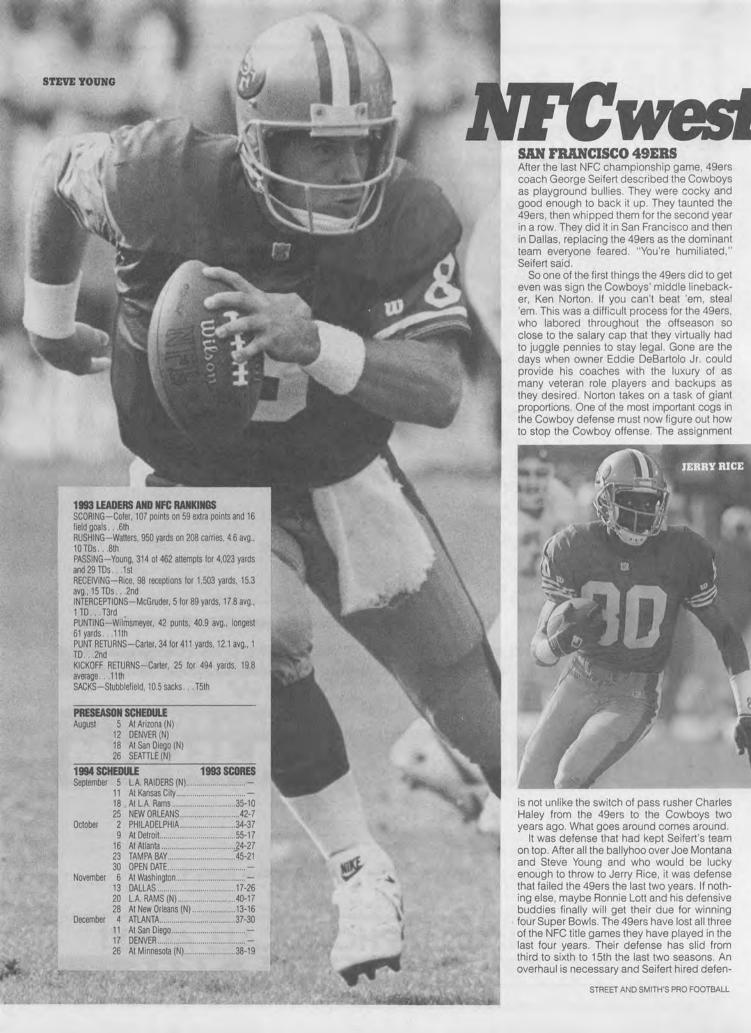
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After the last NFC championship game, 49ers coach George Seifert described the Cowboys as playground bullies. They were cocky and good enough to back it up. They taunted the 49ers, then whipped them for the second year in a row. They did it in San Francisco and then in Dallas, replacing the 49ers as the dominant team everyone feared. "You're humiliated," Seifert said.

So one of the first things the 49ers did to get even was sign the Cowboys' middle linebacker, Ken Norton. If you can't beat 'em, steal 'em. This was a difficult process for the 49ers, who labored throughout the offseason so close to the salary cap that they virtually had to juggle pennies to stay legal. Gone are the days when owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. could provide his coaches with the luxury of as many veteran role players and backups as they desired. Norton takes on a task of giant proportions. One of the most important cogs in the Cowboy defense must now figure out how to stop the Cowboy offense. The assignment



is not unlike the switch of pass rusher Charles Haley from the 49ers to the Cowboys two years ago. What goes around comes around.

It was defense that had kept Seifert's team on top. After all the ballyhoo over Joe Montana and Steve Young and who would be lucky enough to throw to Jerry Rice, it was defense that failed the 49ers the last two years. If nothing else, maybe Ronnie Lott and his defensive buddies finally will get their due for winning four Super Bowls. The 49ers have lost all three of the NFC title games they have played in the last four years. Their defense has slid from third to sixth to 15th the last two seasons. An overhaul is necessary and Seifert hired defensive coordinator Ray Rhodes from the Packers to return the 49ers to the defense Rhodes

left before going to Green Bay.

The offense remains No. 1, with quarterback Steve Young becoming the first passer to lead the league with a plus-100 rating three years in a row. He is football's most dangerous one-man wrecking crew. Nobody touches his consistent combination of plus-8 yards per pass attempt and 6-7 yards per rush. His 71 touchdown passes and 31 interceptions in his three years as a starter are numbers worthy of Montana. No wonder the 49ers broke their bank making sure they signed offensive linemen to protect him. Unable to afford to keep backup Steve Bono, the 49ers are convinced they found another gem in last year's eighthround pick, Elvis Grbac. They also have Bill Musgrave, and if the 49ers no longer have cornered the quarterback market, they remain better off than some.



With Rice, they have cornered the receiver market. Three more touchdowns and he passes Jim Brown as the all-time leading TD scorer. Rice will turn 32 during his 10th season with practically no evidence of slowing down. After eight consecutive seasons of more than 1,000 yards, he has left little room for debate over who is the best receiver ever to play the game. John Taylor, also 32, is coming off a very good season as the man who takes pressure off Rice. The 49ers are looking for help from Odessa Turner, Sanjay Beach, and Nate Singleton and third-rounder Cory Fleming of Tennessee. At tight end, Brent Jones suffered a broken leg in the Pro Bowl and might not be 100 percent by season's start. He is the No. 2 target in the attack and is backed up by Ted Popson.

Ricky Watters scored five touchdowns against the Giants in the playoffs and finished 11th among all rushers (with 950 yards) despite sitting out three games. Only Marcus Allen (12) ran for more touchdowns than Watters' 10 during the regular season. Watters has

become such a fixture that he discouraged young backup Amp Lee. The 49ers drafted big Florida State fullback William Floyd in the first round to replace Tom Rathman and give Watters the blocking presence Rathman delivered for years. Marc Logan filled in admirably for the injured Rathman last year.

The 49ers re-signed tackles Steve Wallace and Harris Barton to insure stability up front, where the future of guard Guy McIntyre is uncertain. Center Jesse Sapolu made the Pro Bowl. Ralph Tamm plays right guard, with Harry Boatswain, Brian Bollinger, and Chris Dalman as backups.

To begin the defensive changes, the 49ers signed linebacker Gary Plummer (Chargers) before adding Norton. Then they traded linebacker Bill Romanowski to the Eagles on draft day, virtually cleaning house at one position. Mike Walter and John Johnson, starters in the Dallas game, and injured reserve linebacker Keith DeLong also are not expected to contribute in 1994. Big Kevin Mitchell of Syracuse was drafted in the second round to give Rhodes some beef and flexibility and linebackers Tony Peterson and Lee Woodall were added later in the draft. The 49ers discovered they simply weren't fast enough at linebacker to stay with the quick Cowboys.

Dana Stubblefield was outstanding as a pass rusher from the tackle spot. His 101/2 sacks led all rookies and were the most by a 49er rookie since Charles Haley registered 12 in 1986. To give him help, the 49ers unloaded



fat Ted Washington to the Broncos and moved up in the draft to get Notre Dame's quick Bryant Young. The combination is yet another concession to the way the Cowboys do business. The Dallas defense is predicated on fast, penetrating tackles able to disrupt plays before they develop. The 49ers hope last year's other first-rounder, Todd Kelly, drafted one notch after Stubblefield, will improve several notches from a disappointing first season and provide the outside rush the 49ers need. Overachiever Martin Harrison followed Stubblefield with six sacks while ends Troy Wilson and Dennis Brown had 51/2 apiece. Brown needs to reach another level. Karl Wilson and Artie Smith provide depth.

Switching Merton Hanks from corner to free safety to replace Dana Hall resulted in big plays, including an electrifying Monday night interception return. Strong safety Tim McDonald improved as his first season with the 49ers progressed and was voted to another Pro Bowl. But the 49ers have to replace departed cornerback Don Griffin (Browns), a casualty of the salary cap. Second-round draft pick Tyronne Drakeford will get the first shot, with Michael McGruder and Adrian Hardy in reserve. Eric Davis is the left corner.

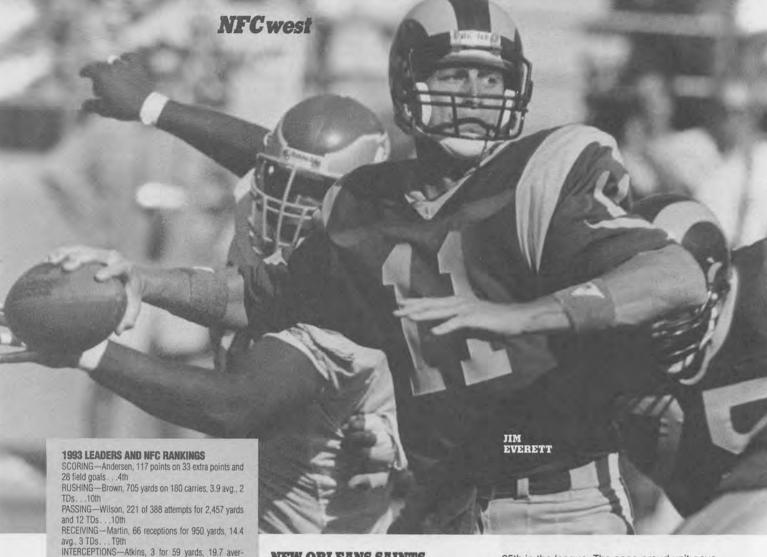
The 49ers were the only team to draft a place-kicker, taking Cal's Doug Brien in the third round. This means good-bye for Mike Cofer, who hit only 16 of 26 field goals. Punter Klaus Wilmsmeyer had a league-low 15 punts returned. Dexter Carter can return punts and kickoffs with the best of them, but can the 49ers afford him?

49ERS VETERAN ROSTER

70	name	pos	DI	WI	alla	cullege
79	Barton, Harris,	T	6-4	286	30	North Carolina
85	Boatswain, Harry		6-4	295	25	New Haven
71	Bollinger, Brian		6-5	285	26	North Carolina
96	Brown, Dennis		6-4	290	27	Washington
86	Bryant, Junior		6-4	275	23	Notre Dame
50	Dalman, Chris		6-3	285	24	Stanford
25	Davis, Eric		5-11	178	26	Jacksonville St.
18	Grbac, Elvis		6-5	232	24	Michigan
28	Hall, Dana		6-2	206	25	Washington
36	Hanks, Merton		6-2	185	26	lowa
45	Hardy, Adrian		5-11	194	24	NW La
56	Harrison, Martin		6-5	240	26	Washington
55	Johnson, John		6-3	230	26	Clemson
84	Jones, Brent	TE	6-4	230	31	Santa Clara
58	Kelly, Todd		6-2	259	24	Tennessee
22	Lee, Amp		5-11	200	23	Florida State
43	Logan, Marc		6-0	212	29	Kentucky
46	McDonald, Tim		6-2	215	29	USC
26	McGruder, Michael	BG . Is	5-10	190	30	Kent State
76	Millen, Alec	Ť	6-7	285	24	Georgia
14	Musgrave, Bill	QB	6-2	205	27	Oregon.
51	Norton, Ken	LB	6-2	241	28	UCLA
	Plummer, Gary		8-2	247	34	California
4g	Popson, Ted		6-4	250	28	Portland State
80	Rice, Jerry		6-2	200	32	Miss Valley St.
38	Russell, Damien	\$	6-1	204	24	Virginia Tech
61	Sapolu, Jesse		6-4	278	33	Hawaii
88	Singleton, Nate		5-11	190	26	Grambling
95	Smith, Artie		6-4	303	24	Louisiana Tech
94	Stubblefield, Dana	DE.	6-2	302	24	Kansas
64	Tamm, Ralph		6-4	280	28	West Chester
B2	Taylor, John	WR	6-1	185	32	Delaware State
72	Thomas, Mark	DE	6-5	273	25	N.C. State
86	Turner, Odessa	WR	6-3	215		NW La.
74			6-5			Auburn
32	Watters, Ricky		6-1	212		Notre Dame
10	Wilmsmeyer, Klar		6-1			Louisville
77	Wilson, Karl	DE				LSU
92	Wilson, Troy	DE	6-4			Pittsburg State
8	Young, Steve	08	6-2	203	5 33	BYU

DRAFTEES

rd.	name pos	hl	W	college
1	Young, Bryant DT/DE	6-3	276	Notre Dame
1			238	Florida State
2	Mitchell, KevinLB		260	Syracuse
2	Drakeford, Tyronne CB	5-10	185	Virginia Tech
3		6-0	170	California
3	Fleming, Cory WR	6-3	207	Tennessee
	Peterson, TonyLB		223	Notre Dame
	Woodall, LeeLB		200	West Chester



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

The bottom dropped out of the Saints after a 5-0 start last year, age and injury suddenly putting a good team into a 3-8 free fall that left the whole franchise reeling. In a city accustomed to manic mood swings, fans quickly traded Super Bowl reservations for paper bags and made an easy transition from Greats to Aints. Only the steady hand of coach Jim Mora and an organization that doesn't panic was able to divert disaster.

"One of the things you have to look at in this business is whether you are competitive over a period of time," Mora said. "I think this organization has been. If you can stay competitive, then you are going to have your good years. We haven't had a bad year, where we've lost more games than we have won. Certainly we're not happy with this past season, but we're not ready to say we're in dire shape, because we're not.'

Mora blasted fans for cheering an injury to quarterback Wade Wilson at the end of a fourgame losing streak in the Superdome. Knowledgeable fans could plainly see the collapse was a team-wide effort. Wilson threw one interception when the team was 5-0 and 14 when it was 3-8, but the defense was no longer the dominant group it had been in recent playoff years. It couldn't stop the run, falling to

25th in the league. The once-proud unit gave up more big plays than it made, and then watched helplessly as opponents scored a league-high 10 touchdowns on returns when the defense wasn't even on the field.

The Saints started to plug holes by acquiring two NFC West players who made a living making big plays against them. In former Ram quarterback Jim Everett and former Falcon receiver Michael Haynes, the Saints have added two players who will not only improve their offense, but make things easier on their defense for at least four games a year.

Everett earned his share of criticism in Los Angeles, but the Saints see a 31-year-old bigarmed talent who may only need a change of scenery. With the right supporting casts, Everett has enjoyed banner years. Mora's primary problem is to erase the old pregame speeches he used to preach about getting in Everett's face and disrupting his rhythm so he would get happy feet and become ineffective. Those were the old days. Wilson re-signed as a backup and Doug Nussmeier of Idaho was drafted in the fourth round to replace longtime project Mike Buck.

Haynes provides the deep threat that was perennially lacking in the offense. He averaged just 10.8 yards per catch in Atlanta's run-and-shoot, but the Saints remember the

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

avg., 1 TD. . . 2nd

1994 SCHEDULE

5 At New England (N) 13 At Minnesota (N) 19 GREEN BAY (N)

SACKS-Turnbull, 13.0 sacks...T1st

25 DALLAS (N)

PUNTING-Barnhardt, 77 punts, 43.6 avg., longest 58

PUNT RETURNS-Hughes, 37 for 503 yards, 13.6 avg.,

2 TDs. . .1st KICKOFF RETURNS—Hughes, 30 for 753 yards, 25.1

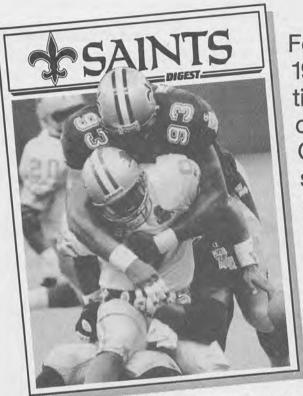
1993 SCORES

September	4	KANSAS CITY	
	11	WASHINGTON	
	18	At Tampa Bay	-
	25	At San Francisco	
October	2	N.Y. GIANTS	
	9	At Chicago	
	16	SAN DIEGO	
	23	L.A. RAMS	
	30	OPEN DATE	
November	6	At Minnesota	17-14
	13	ATLANTA	15-26
	20	At L.A. Raiders	·····-
	28	SAN FRANCISCO (N)	16-13
December	4	At L.A. Rams	37-6
	11	At Atlanta (N)	
		The second secon	

19 DALLAS (N)

24 At Denver

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98-yarder he caught against them. He will enable Quinn Early to move to the other side and allow Eric Martin to work from the slot in three-receiver formations. Martin is 32 and still leads the team every year. Torrance Small, Marcus Dowdell, and rookie Derrell Mitchell will back up. Second-year tight end Irv Smith replaces the retired Hoby Brenner, with ex-49er Wesley Walls and Frank Wainright in reserve.

The Saints added second-rounder Mario Bates to a full stable of runners, led by second-year finds Derek Brown and Lorenzo Neal. Brown finished fourth in the outstanding rookie class of Jerome Bettis, Reggie Brooks, and Ron Moore. Former No. 1 pick Vaughn Dunbar is coming off knee surgery that wiped out his 1993. Brad Muster is trying to find his niche and Dalton Hilliard could remain an effective third-down back. Derrick Ned is another fullback candidate.

Willie Roaf, the sensational rookie tackle, will move from the right side to the left in the new blocking scheme, switching with Richard Cooper. Left guard Chris Port also will switch

SAM MILLS

to the right to replace the departed Derek Kennard (Cowboys), with Jim Dombrowski returning to left guard. The Saints signed Jeff Uhlenhake (Dolphins) to replace Joel Hilgenberg at center. Backup help is a problem, with new signees Tom Rickets and Willie Williams joined by rookies Craig Novitsky and Lance Lundberg.

Uncharacteristically, the Saints' defense is unsettled. "In the past, because we were such a dominant defensive team, we were able to win games on defense with an offense that's never been really special," Mora said. "The previous two years, we were one of the top two or three defensive teams in the NFL. Last year, we fell off. We were not as strong up front. We did not play the run as well on a consistent basis."

Warren, 35, Jim Wilks, 36, and Sam Mills, 35, all suffered from injuries. Rickey Jackson was effective, but he's 36. Vaughan Johnson slipped at 31. The deterioration didn't stop up front. Safety Brett Maxie suffered his second major knee injury at 31. Losing free safety Gene Atkins to Miami doesn't help the rebuilding process. The Saints began by taking Louisville end Joe Johnson in the first round. If nothing else, Johnson is young, a junior who will need to develop fast if the Saints expect him to contribute immediately. Left end Wayne Martin hopes to return to 1992 form if he can get the support around him. Nose tackle Wilks was released without the presence of a clear heir apparent. Veterans Les Miller and Robert Goff are possibilities, but they are more suited to positions on the outside. Miller finished as the right end in Warren's absence and Warren's future is uncertain following a foot injury. The Saints added Herman Carroll in the fifth round and still have second-year man Ronnie Dixon and veteran Karl Dunbar as backups who could contend for playing time in an area of obvious need.

Renaldo Turnbull replaced Pat Swilling at linebacker a year ago and made the Pro Bowl by tying Reggie White for the NFC lead in sacks with 13. Like his team, Turnbull was better early in the season and finished up injured. Joel Smeenge is a capable backup who has earned more playing time. Jackson is remarkable on the other side. He had 11½ sacks and is compiling Hall of Fame credentials, outlasting Lawrence Taylor and all the other great linebackers from the class of '81. Reggie Freeman is a young outside backer who will push. Inside, Mills and Johnson will get competition from James Williams and third-round draft choice Winfred Tubbs.

The secondary could line up with four new starters. Left corner Vince Buck is expected to move to free safety to replace Atkins. Othello Henderson impressed coaches as a rookie thrust into strong safety. Reggie Jones is coming off an injury and will replace Buck at left corner, If Toi Cook doesn't return at right corner, the job will be up for grabs between Jim-

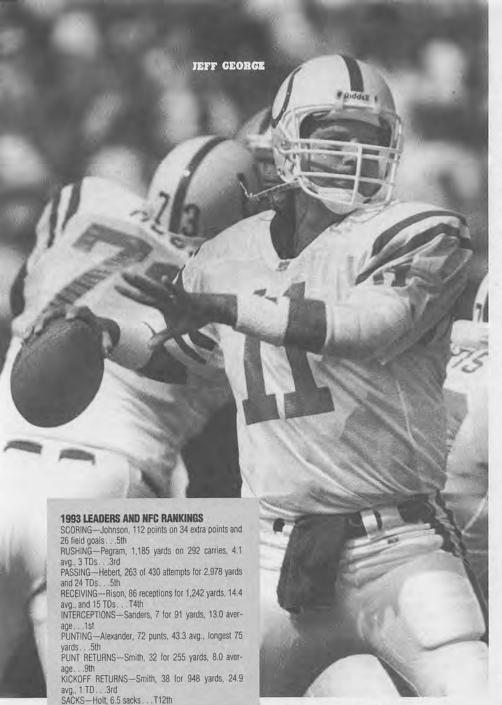


The defense was simply run down. Frank arren, 35, Jim Wilks, 36, and Sam Mills, 35, gette and kick-return specialist Tyrone suffered from injuries. Rickey Jackson was fective, but he's 36. Vaughan Johnson pped at 31. The deterioration didn't stop up

Hughes led the league in punt returns and was second in kickoff returns as a rookie in a phenomenal performance. He returned two punts and one kickoff for touchdowns. Tommy Barnhardt had 26 punts inside the 20 and Morten Andersen was just 12 of 19 outside 40 yards and is looking to bounce back.

no	name ,	200	nt	wt	age	college
7	Andersen, Morten	K	6-2	221	34	Michigan St.
78.	Backes, Tom		6-4	273	26	Oklahoma
6	Barnhardt. Tommy	P	6-2	207	31	North Carolina
59	Bowden, Andre	IR.	6-3		26	Fayetteville St.
24	Brown, Derek	RR	5-9		23	Nebraska
16	Ruck Mike	nn.	6-3		27	Maine
26	Buck, Vince	CR	6-0	198	26	Central St.
45	Byrd, Israel	CB	5-11	184	23	Utah St.
40	Coghill, George		6-2	196	24	Wake Forest
41	Cook, Toi		5-11	188	30	Stanford
19	Cooper, Hunkie	NIR	5-8	185	25	UNLV
71	Cooper, Richard	T	6-5	290	30	Tennessee
95	Dixon, Ronnie	AIT	6-2	292	23	Cincinnati
72	Dombrowski, Jim	Oi	6-5	300	31	Virginia
80	Dowdell, Marcus	NA	5-10		24	Tennessee St
63	Dunbas Vasi	DC	6-4	275	27	LSU LSU
32	Dunbar, Karl Dunbar, Vaughn	DE	5-10	204	26	Indiana
	Dunbar, Vaugnn	ND				
89	Early, Quinn	WH	6-0	190	29	lowa
17	Everett, Jim		6-5		31	Purdue Ch
55	Freeman, Reggie	L'B	6-1	233	24	Florida St.
66	Garten, Joe	UL	6-2	290	26	Colorado
91	Goff, Robert	LL	6-3	270		Auburn
81	Haynes, Michael	MH	6-0	184	29	Northern Arizon
20	Henderson, Othello	5	6-0	192	22	UCLA
62	Hilgenberg, Jay	UL	6-3	270	35	lowa
61	Hilgenberg, Joel	OL	6-2	252	32	lowa
21	Hilliard, Dalton		5-8	204	30	LSU
33	Hughes, Tyrone	CB	5-9	175	24	Nebraska
57	Jackson, Rickey		6-2	243	36	Pittsburgh
98	Jeffcoat, Jerold		6-2	285	25	Temple
53	Johnson, Vaughan			240	32	N.C. State
27	Jones, Reginald	CB	6-1	202	25	Memphis St.
43	Legette, Tyrone	CB	5-9		24	Nebraska
46	Lumpkin, Sean	S	6-0	206	24	Minnesota
84	Martin, Eric	NR	6-1	207	32	LSU
93	Martin, Wayne	DE	6-5	275	29	Arkansas
39	Maxie, Brett	.5	6-2	194	32	Texas Southern
96	Mayfield, Corey	NT	6-3	290	24	Oklahoma
86	McCleskey, J.J	NR	5-7	177	24	Tennessee
58	Milburn, Darryl	LB	6-3	245	26	Grambling St.
69	Miller, Les	DL	6-7	285	29	FL Hays St.
51	Mills, Sam	LB	5-9	225	35	Montclair St.
22	Muster, Brad		6-4	235	29	Stanford
23	Neal Lorenzo	FB	5-11	240	24	Fresno St.
36	Ned, Derrick Nelson, Royce	FB	6-1	210	25	Grambling St.
79	Nelson, Royce	G	6-4	315	24	Nicholls St.
35	Pahukoa, Shane	S		202	24	Washington
70	Port. Chris		6-5	295	27	Duke
64	Ricketts, Torn		6-5	305	29	Pittsburgh
77	Roaf, William	T	6-5	300		Louisiana Tech
75	Rollins, Baron		6-4	335		Louisiana Tech
83	Small, Torrance\	VR.	6-3	201	24	Alcorn St.
99	Smeenge, Joel		6-5	250	26	W. Michigan
82	Smith, Irv		6-3			Notre Dame
37	Spencer, Jimmy		5-9	180	25	Florida
29	Toulor Keith	0	5-11	206	30	Illinois
97	Taylor, Keith	IB	6-4	250	28	West Virginia
88	Turner Floor	UD.	5-11	188	28	Northwestern L
00	Ublachala leff	VIII		284	28	
07	Uhlenhake, Jeff	TE	6-3			Ohio State
87	Wainright, Frank			245	27	N. Colorado
73	Warren, Frank			290		Aubum
90	Williams, James		6-0	230	26	Mississippi St.
65	Williams, Willie		6-6	295	27	LSU
18	Wilson, Wade	18	6-3	206	35	East Texas St.
92	Winston, DeMond	I.R	6-2	239	26	Vanderbilt

rd.	name	pos	hl	wt	callege
d	Johnson, Joe	DE	6-4	280	Louisville
	Bates, Mario		6-0	217	Arizona State
3	Tubbs, Winfred	LB	6-5	242	Texas
	Nussmeier, Doug		6-4	210	Idaho
	Carroll, Herman		6-4	261	Mississippi St.
5	Novitsky, Craig	G	6-5	295	UCLA
	Mitchell, Derrell		5-9	185	Texas Tech
	Lundberg, Lance		6-4	300	Nebraska



ATLANTA FALCONS

What's new in Atlanta is just about everything. But starting over is nothing new. Falcon fans are accustomed to coaching changes and promises that come along with about the same regularity as presidential elections. What's new this time is the excitement appears grounded in more than fluff and puff. June Jones replaced Jerry Glanville as coach, retaining the entertaining run-and-shoot offense without the sideline show. Among the players, offensive coordinator Jones was more popular in Atlanta than Glanville and decidedly less flamboyant. "I promise the people of Atlanta that you'll be proud of me when my tenure here is long gone, and I'll do everything I can to build a championship team," Jones said.

Jones and player personnel director Ken Herock quickly set about their business as if there were no tomorrows. The Smith family ownership has shown extraordinary patience over the years, but there is increasing urgency. The Falcons no longer want to build for any more futures. To that end, they traded away this year's No. 1 draft choice for Indianapolis quarterback Jeff George. Then they traded away next year's No. 1 draft choice for Minnesota pass rusher Chris Doleman. The passer and the pass rusher are expected to take the Falcons to another level, meaning the playoffs that Glanville made in 1992 but missed in '93 when the Falcons lost their last three games to lowly Washington, Cincinnati, and Phoenix.

Adding George and Doleman turned out to be just the start. Subtraction became an intriguing possibility when the Falcons rescinded the transition tag on superstar cornerback Deion Sanders, freeing the full-time baseball player to sign anywhere in the NFL without a right of first refusal by the Falcons. While the move didn't necessarily mean the end of Deion's two-sport career in Atlanta, it did mean the Falcons may no longer be willing to put so much stock in part-time help. While Sanders is spectacular, the Falcons no longer need ticket-selling gimmicks. They need commitments. Before Sanders arrived last fall, the Falcons were 0-5. After he showed up and led the NFC in interceptions, they won six of the next eight to get into the playoff hunt. Sanders'

ANDRE

baseball contract will force him to miss the first five games again this year, and under the salary cap, the Falcons no longer want to pay him \$2 million for 11 games.

In George, the Falcons get the player they would have drafted in 1990 had the Colts not offered Chris Hinton, Andre Rison, and two No. 1 draft choices and more for his rights. After wearing out his welcome in his hometown, George now has Rison and a coach convinced he can make a run-and-shoot star out of him. Bobby Hebert threw 24 touchdown passes last year under Jones, making Chris Miller (Rams) expendable. But after elbow surgery put his future in jeopardy, Hebert was

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July 30 San Diego at Canton, OH

August 6 At DENVER (N) 12 BUFFALO (N)

19 At Cleveland (N)

26 PHILADELPHIA (N)

1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	At Detroit	
- change	11		30-24
	18	KANSAS CITY (N)	
	25	At Washington	17-30
October	2	At L.A. Rams	13-0
	9	TAMPA BAY	24-31
	16	SAN FRANCISCO	27-24
	23	At L.A. Raiders	
	30	OPEN DATE	
November	6	SAN DIEGO	
	13	At New Orleans	26-15
	20	At Denver	
	27	PHILADELPHIA	
December	4	At San Francisco	30-37
	11	NEW ORLEANS (N)	31-34
	18	Green Bay at Milwaul	
	24	ARIZONA	10-27

willing to take a pay cut and stick around to back up George. It gives Jones an unusual 1-2 punch, with rookie Perry Klein on hand to watch. George's arm never has been questioned, and Jones thinks he is made for his quick-read, wing-it attack.

Trouble is, Rison looks like the only target left in a system that requires numbers. The Falcons allowed deep threat Michael Haynes to get away to New Orleans, then traded emerging star Mike Pritchard to Denver to recoup the 1995 No. 1 lost in the Doleman deal. That forced Jones to draft Rice quarterback Bert Emanuel in the second round and hope he can convert to a wide receiver, and Florida's Harrison Houston in the fifth round to give Jason Phillips and David Mims competition. Jones will be scanning the waiver wire all summer. Maybe Drew Hill will come out of retirement. Then there is always Sanders, who caught six passes last year. When the Falcons use a tight end, it probably will be Mitch Lyons.

The development of Erric Pegram gives George a big-time running back for the first time in his career. Pegram was fourth in the league in rushing last year behind the more familiar names of Emmitt Smith, Jerome Bettis, and Thurman Thomas. The former sixth-rounder keeps former No. 1 pick Tony Smith

on the bench and ran another erstwhile No. 1, Steve Broussard, out of town.

The Falcons lost offensive lineman Chris Hinton (Vikings), so they are forced to scramble up front. They signed Mike Zandofsky (Chargers) and retained Roman Fortin, who will compete either at Hinton's right-guard spot or at center with Jamie Dukes. Mike Kenn is back for another fling at left tackle at age 38, playing beside 335-pound second-year left guard Lincoln Kennedy. If Kennedy and thirdyear right tackle Bob Whitfield become the superstars that their draft status promised, the Falcons won't have to worry about losing the versatile Hinton. Keith Alex and Mike Ruether are backups and third-round guard Alai Kalaniuvalu will get the public address announcer in early shape.

"I have great confidence in my abilities on the offensive side of the football," Jones said. "The thing that we have to do is get better on the other side."

To start, the defense hired Jim Bates from Cleveland as coordinator. He will install a 4-2-5 alignment, using a "rover" linebacker/defensive back. The key remains the front, where Doleman will join last year's free-agent pickup from the 49ers, Pierce Holt, to give the Falcons their most accomplished pass-rushing tandem in years. Holt played through nagging injuries last season and the sight of Doleman should be enough to cure whatever ails him. Moe Gardner is an active counterpart to Holt at tackle, and Jumpy Geathers still can apply pressure up the middle in spurts. The left end opposite Doleman remains a question mark, with linebacker-type Chuck Smith and Mel Agee sharing the job. Lester Archambeau, who finished at right end, may shift to left.

Middle linebacker Jessie Tuggle remains a tackling machine, but the Falcons are weak at linebacker, a condition which may suit Bates's style. The athletic Ron George could become the rover if third-round draft pick Anthony Phillips or strong safety Roger Harper doesn't beat him to it. Backups Alton Montgomery and Howard Dinkins are also in the running. The more conventional linebacker job will be handled by veteran Jesse Solomon or Ken Tippins.

The Falcons signed Pittsburgh cornerback D. J. Johnson and Kansas City corner/safety Kevin Ross in anticipation of secondary changes with or without Sanders. Johnson will

play left corner with Vinnie Clark or Darnell Walker on the right side until (and if) Sanders shows. That leaves the middle to strong safety Harper and free safety Ross, with Scott Case and Tracey Eaton in reserve. Harper was outstanding as a rookie and could quickly become a household name.

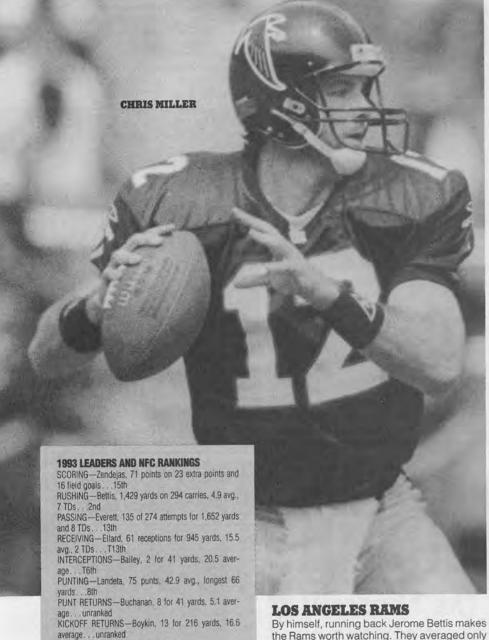
Norm Johnson missed one field goal all year and seems to be getting better with age. Tony Smith was among the league's best combination return men. Punter Harold Alexander is good. Elbert Shelley is a great special-teams' head-hunter the Falcons hope they can keep in the new cap system.

FALCONS VETERAN ROSTER

	rounder keeps former No. 1 pick Tony Smith
	CHRIS DOLEMAN
11	TIME O
111	
	20
, V	
16	

TA.		
	27	64
	ERRIC PEGRAM	V

41 Addison, Bryan 200 Hawai Age, Louis SW Louisiana 26 25 68 Agee, Mel. 6-5 298 Illinois Alex. Keith 6-4 307 Texas A&M Alexander, Harold: Appalachian State 92 Archambeau, Lester DE 6-5 275 27 6-1 188 32 Stanford Oklahoma 25 27 Case, Scott. Clark, Vinnie Jackson State Conner, Darion LB 6-2 245 27 Dinkins, Howard LB 6-1 230 25 Florida State Doleman, Chris. 6-5 275 33 Pittsburgh DE Donaldson, Jeff. 6-1 194 32 Colorado Dukes, Jamie 6-1 292 30 Florida State 6-4 290 25 63 Earle, John Western Illinois ..G 6-1 195 Portland State 65 Fortin, Roman ni. 6-5 295 27 San Diego St. 6-3 205 36 Utah State Gagliano, Bob. QB Gann, Mike 6-2 261 26 6-7 290 34 Gardner, Moe. NT Illinois Wichita State Geathers, Jumpy DT 6-4 218 George, Jeff. 50 6-2 225 24 6-2 266 25 George, Ron. LB Stanford Goldberg, Bill. DT Georgia Gordon, Dwayne LB New Hampshire 47 Harper, Roger 6-2 223 24 5-11 194 23 Ohio State CB 5-11 Florida 29 Hatch, Lawrence: 24 Hebert, Bobby 6-4 215 NW Louisiana QB 6-5 285 25 NE Louisiana 5-9 172 38 Georgia Tech 74 Heidenreich, Jon Hill, Drew... Holt, Pierce. 6-4 275 32 Angelo State Jones, Tony 5-7 145 29 Texas Johnson, D.J.... Johnson, Norm. CB 6-0 183 28 Kentucky 6-2 203 34 UCLA Michigan Kenn, Mike Kennedy, Lincoln O 6-6 335 23 Washington 6-4 248 31 Colo. State Le Bel, Harper TE Logan, Emie. East Carolina 43 Lowery, Tim., Lyons, Mitch. RB 5-11 247 24 Clark 255 24 6-4 Michigan State 86 TE Mathis, Terance. WR 5-10 170 New Mexico 5-8 191 24 Baylor 6-0 202 26 Houston Mims, David WR 22 Montgomery, Alton 91 Paulk, Tim. 6-0 Florida 26 Pegram Erric 5-9 188 25 N. Texas State RR Phillips, Jason Richardson, Huey. 5-7 166 28 Houston 82 WR DE 6-4 243 26 Florida 80 Rison, Andre. 6-1 188 WR Michigan State 5-9 182 32 6-4 286 32 36 Ross, Kevin Temple Ruether, Mike. G/C Texas Central Michigan 6-5 Sally, Lamar. SW Texas State Arkansas St. 83 37 Sanders, Ricky WB 5-11 178 32 185 30 Shelley, Elbert 5-11 CB Smith, Chuck. LB/DE Tennessee Smith, Tony 6-1 224 24 6-0 240 31 Southern Miss 28 54 ..RB Florida State Soloman, Jesse LB Spencer, Darryl 5-9 180 28 6-1 235 28 Stinson, Lemuel. CB Texas Tech Mid. Tenn. St. 52 Tippins, Ken... LB Tobeck, Robbie Washington State Tolliver, Billy Joe... OB 6-1 218 28 230 29 Texas Tech 58 LB 5-11 Tuggle, Jessie... Valdosta State Walker, Darnell.. 40 Wallace, AnthonyRB 6-0 191 25 California 6-1 217 Washington, Charles S 28 Cameron 46 Whitfield, Bob .. Stanford Wilkins, David.... DE/LB Zandofsky, Mike......OL 6-4 240 25 Eastern Kentucky 6-2 305 29 Washington DRAFTEES



the Rams worth watching. They averaged only 13.8 points a game a year ago, the fewest in the NFC. By himself, defensive tackle Sean Gilbert makes the Rams worth watching. They allowed 22.9 points per game, the third-most in the NFL. They averaged 45,401 fans in Anaheim, their lowest attendance since they moved from the Coliseum in 1980. They might be Anaheim's lame ducks, football's counterpart to hockey's Mighty Ducks. But Bettis and Gilbert make them interesting. Trouble is, they are pretty much by themselves.

Coach Chuck Knox is trying to gather talent around them as fast as he can because he knows running backs and defensive linemen of their caliber don't arrive every year. Dallas is lucky that Emmitt Smith had Troy Aikman at quarterback. Ask Walter Payton whether he needed a quarterback. Ask Barry Sanders. The Rams traded quarterback Jim Everett to New Orleans after a disappointing season in which he was benched in favor of the totally untested T.J. Rubley. Everett criticized Knox's offense, buying himself a one-way ticket out.

In his place, the Rams were happy to land Atlanta's Chris Miller. Coming off two serious knee surgeries, Miller nevertheless impressed the Rams to such an extent that they ignored a quarterback in the draft, confident that the shaky knee will hold up once Miller is required to do more than work out in shorts. It is a gamble the Falcons weren't willing to take. Healthy, Miller can throw with the best of them, but two anterior cruciate ligament operations on his left knee have reduced his playing to 10 starts in two years. That's why the Rams are intent on keeping a veteran with Rubley in case Miller doesn't make it. Starting over with

no	RAMS VETE	ht	W		college
no.	name pos			age	
83	Anderson, WillieWR	6-0	172	29	UCLA
77	Ashmore, DarrylT	6-7	300	25	Northwestern
28	Bailey, Robert CB	5-9	176	26	Miami
71	Belin, ChuckG	6-2	312	24	Wisconsin
36	Bettis, JeromeRB	5-11	243	22	Notre Dame
96	Boutte, MarcDT	6-4	298	25	LSU
21	Boykin, DeralS	5-11	196	24	Louisville
49	Brasher, BobTE	6-5	244	24	Arizona State
61	Brostek, BernC	6-3	300	28	Washington
89	Buchanan, Richard WR	5-10	178	25	Northwestern
51	Bush, BlairC	6-3	275	38	Washington
54	Collins, BrettLB	6-1	234	26	Washington
56	Conlan, ShaneLB	6-3	235	30	Penn State
29	Davis, Dexter CB	5-10	185	24	Clemson
84	Drayton, Troy TE	6-3	255	24	Penn State
93	Esters, JeffDT	6-4	285	25	Pittsburgh
68	Fichtel, BradC	6-2	285		Eastern Illinois
43	Gary, ClevelandRB	6-0	226		Miami
90	Gilbert, SeanDT	6-4	315		Pittsburgh
79	Goeas, LeoOL	6-4	292		Hawaii
42	Griffin, Courtney CB	5-10	180		Fresno State
30	Griffith, HowardRB	6-0	226		Illinois
24	Henderson, Wymon CB	5-10	188		UNLV
23		5-10	187		Oregon
57	Hicks, Clifford DB	6-0	245		Northwestern
	Homco, ThomasLB				
31	Israel, Steve CB	5-11	186		Pittsburgh
86	Jones, ErnieWR	6-0			Indiana
	Jones, JimmieDT	6-4	276		Miami
18	Jones, JeffWR	5-10	185		California
81	Kinchen, ToddWR	6-0	187		Louisiana State
88	LaChapelle, SeanWR	6-3	205		UCLA
5	Landeta, SeanP	6-0	210		Towson State
38	Lang, DavidRB	5-11	213		Northern Arizona
34	Lester, TimRB	5-9	215		Eastern Kentucky
80	Lewis, NateWR	5-11	198		Oregon Tech
64	Loneker, KeithG	6-3	330	23	Kansas
41	Lyght, Todd CB	6-0	186	25	Notre Dame
53	Martin, ChrisLB	6-2	241	34	Auburn
8	Martin, Jamie QB	6-2	215	24	Weber State
82	McNeal, TravisTE	6-3	244	27	UT-Chattanooga
13	Miller, Chris QB	6-2	212	29	Oregon
66	Newberry, TomG	6-2	285		WisLaCrosse
26	Newman, AnthonyS	6-0	199		Oregon
69	Pahukoa, JeffOL	6-2	298		Washington
58	Phiter, RomanLB	6-2	230		UCLA
22	Pope, Marquez DB	5-10	193		Fresno State
27	Price, Mitchell CB	5-9	181		Tulane
72	Robbins, KevinT	6-4	286		Michigan State
97	Robinson, Gerald DE	6-3	262		Auburn
97		6-4	267		Aubum
	Rocker, DavidDT				
59	Rolling, HenryLB	6-2	225		Nevada
12	Rubley, T.J QB	6-3	205		Tulsa
78	Slater, JackieT	6-4	285		Jackson State
60	Stokes, FredDE	6-3	274		Georgia Southern
99	Tanuvasa, MaaDT	6-2	277		
37	Terrell, PatS	6-0	195		
55	White, LeonLB		242		BYU
44	White, RussellRB	5-11	216		California
25	Wilson, DavidS	5-10	192		California
76	Young, Robert DE	6-6	273		Mississippi State
10	Zendejas, TonyK	5-8	165	5 34	Nevada

DRAFTEES							
1.	name pos	ht	wt	college			
1	Gandy, Wayne OT	6-4	289	Auburn			
2	Bruce, Isaac WR	5-11	178	Memphis State			
2	Wright, Toby DB	5-11	203	Nebraska			
2	Ottis, Brad DT	6-4	271	Wayne State			
3	Lyle, KeithDB	6-2	204	Virginia			
	Bostic, James RB						
3	Jones, ErnestLB	6-2	230	Oregon			
4	Brantley, Chris WR	5-11	180	Rutgers			
6	Brady, RickeyTE	6-4	243	Oklahoma			
6	Edwards, Ronald OT	6-5	285	North Carolina A&T			

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

SACKS-Gilbert, 10.5 sacks . . . T5th

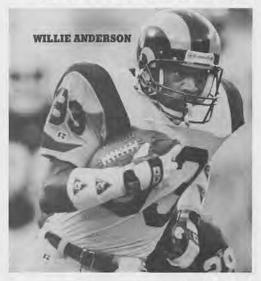
6 Green Bay at Madison, WI 13 NEW ENGLAND (N) 20 I A. RAIDERS (N)

25 At San Diego (N)

1994 SCI	(ED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	ARIZONA	10-38
	11	At Atlanta	24-30
	18	SAN FRANCISCO	10-35
	25	At Kansas City	
October	2	ATLANTA	
	9	At Green Bay	6-36
	16	N.Y. GIANTS	10-20
	23	At New Orleans	23-20
	30	OPEN DATE	
November	6	DENVER	
	13	L.A. RAIDERS	
	20	At San Francisco (N	17-40
	27	At San Diego	
December	4	NEW ORLEANS	6-37
	11	At Tampa Bay	
	18	At Chicago	20-6
	24	WASHINGTON	10-6

young Trent Dilfer didn't interest Knox, who is forced to cover losses at receiver and changes in the offensive line just to stay even.

Top receiver Henry Ellard left for the Redskins. Aging at 33, Ellard nevertheless was second only to the Dolphins' Irving Fryar in yards per catch for receivers with at least 60 receptions. The Rams expect to replace him with rookies Isaac Bruce and Chris Brantley, second and fourth-round draft choices, respectively. Willie "Flipper" Anderson must take up the slack and become Miller's go-to





guy. Only 29, Anderson hasn't been the same receiver since his second 1,000-yard performance in 1990. He still holds the NFL record for 336 yards in one game, set in 1989, but he settled for just 552 yards all last year and a career-low 14.9-yard average. The Rams traded for Nate Lewis (Chargers) and welcome the return of Todd Kinchen from a knee injury. They also have Sean LaChapelle, ex-Cardinal Ernie Jones, Richard Buchanan, and Germaine Ross among the many candidates to come through at a crucial position. They

lost tight end Pat Carter to the Oilers and hope last year's second-rounder, Troy Drayton, is ready to step in. If not, they have Travis McNeal and they drafted Rickey Brady in the

Bettis was sensational as a rookie, chasing Smith for the rushing championship despite a similarly slow start. Knox simply didn't recog-





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nize how good Bettis was at first. By the end of the year, the Rams revolved around him and he was carrying his 243 pounds on amazingly effective sweeps as well as dashes up the middle. With 5-9, 215-pound Tim Lester blocking for the much bigger Bettis, the Rams looked funny, but they also looked over their shoulder. Bettis invited Lester as a guest to the Pro Bowl. The Rams are deep at running back, providing Miller a luxury he didn't have in Atlanta. Russell White and David Lang are quality backups. Knox selected big James Bostic in the third round and would like Cleveland Gary to stick around as insurance.

The Rams drafted Bostic's Auburn teammate Wayne Gandy and anointed him left tackle. They waived starter Irv Eatman to make certain there was no misunderstanding. It's a major risk to protect Miller's fragile knee with a rookie, but a tribute to Gandy. Right tackle Jackie Slater is back for his 19th season with the Rams. At age 40, the man who blocked for Walter Payton in college may serve more as a tutor for Darryl Ashmore than a player, but he will be ready. Keith Loneker and Chuck Belin should push former Pro Bowl left guard Tom Newberry for a starting job. The center is Bern Brostek, backed by Blair Bush and Brad Fichtel. Right guard Leo Goeas can also back up at tackle. Jef Pahukoa and draftee Ron Edwards are reserves.

The Rams are trying to improve on their No. 24 defense and may have the front to do it, especially if Bettis controls the ball the way Knox likes. They added Dallas defensive tack-



le Jimmie Jones to push Marc Boutte at the spot alongside superstar Gilbert. An entire defense can be built around Gilbert just the way an offense can be built around Bettis. Right tackle Gilbert had 101/2 sacks and right end Fred Stokes had 91/2. The rest of the team had 15, of which left end Robert Young had

seven in four games before going down with a knee injury, so his return is anticipated with hope. Gerald Robinson is the backup end after the Rams lost Tony Woods to the Redskins. David Rocker and second-round draft pick Brad Ottis also figure.

At linebacker, Roman Phifer on the right side is pushing for Pro Bowl votes. Knox hopes Shane Conlan can stay healthy in the middle. Henry Rolling is the left linebacker, although Ernest Jones is a third-round draft choice who should help. Chris Martin, Thomas Homco, Leon White, and Brett Collins are reserves who could earn playing time in an area

that is not that strong.

In the backfield, the Rams lost cornerback Darryl Henley to the law and strong safety Michael Stewart to the Dolphins, but replaced them by trading for Marquez Pope (Chargers) and signing Cliff Hicks (Jets). Former No. 1 draftee Todd Lyght returns from an injury to reclaim the left corner, where he hopes to fulfill his potential. Steve Israel is the other corner, with Pope, Hicks, Robert Bailey, Mitchell Price, Dexter Davis, and Courtney Griffin around to press the starters. Anthony Newman is the starting free safety, with Pat Terrell, Deral Boykin, Pope, Hicks, and rookies Keith Lyle and Toby Wright vying for Stewart's job.

Tony Zendejas was the best kicker in the league at over 50 yards, hitting six of a league-high eight attempts. He is hoping to get closer this year. Sean Landeta is the punter, with rookie receiver Brantley and veteran

Lewis penciled in as return men.

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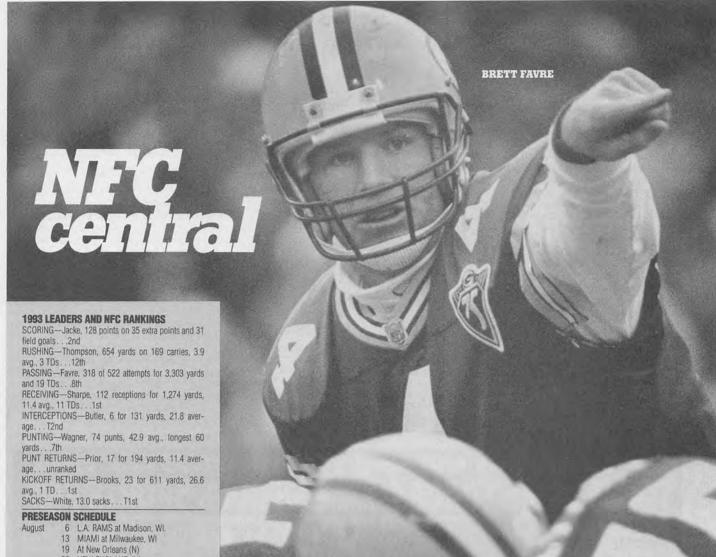


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26 NEW ENGLAND (N)

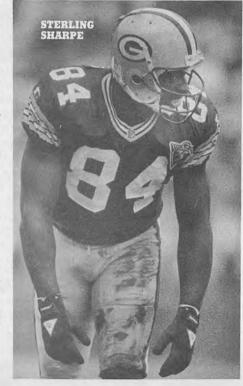
1994 SC	HED	ULE 1	993 SCORES
September	4	MINNESOTA	17-21
	11		
	18	At Philadelphia	17-20
	25	TAMPA BAY	
October	2	At New England	
	9	L.A. RAMS	36-6
	16		
	20		13-15
	31		
November	6	DETROIT at Milwaukee,	WI26-17
	13	ALL IETO	
	20	At Buffalo	
	24	At Dallas	14-36
December	4	At Dallas	20-30
	11		17-3
	18	ATLANTA at Milwaukee.	WI
	24	At Tampa Bay	37-14

GREEN BAY PACKERS

The Packers are approaching the hump, desperately trying to position themselves to get over it. Two years ago, they missed the playoffs with a loss in their final game. Last year, they missed winning the NFC Central title with a loss in their final game. Once in the playoffs, they extracted a measure of revenge by beating the Lions on their last offensive play of the game. Then they turned into road kill for the Cowboys in the second round.

Respectability thus carries the burden of expectation. If the Packers don't win a division pretty soon and gain a home-field advantage in the playoffs, doubts will start to creep into the mix. Doubt would be premature, probably, because coach Mike Holmgren spent most of last season repeating the mantra "Brett Favre is young" over and over again. Truth is, Holmgren had to keep reminding himself so he wouldn't go nuts. Favre threw 24 interceptions, one for each year of his life. Counting two playoff games, Favre threw 27 interceptions and fumbled 16 times, losing seven. He accounted for 34 of the team's 39 turnovers. Granted, the quarterback handles the ball on every play, but that is an overwhelming statistic. Running backs Darrell Thompson and Edgar Bennett, for example, lost one fumble between them. If the Packers are to take the next step, they will have to follow Favre.

"The only single stat where he is not consistent is in his interceptions," Holmgren said. "Every other measurable that you want to come up with, he is as consistent a quarterback in his first two years [as any who] ever played this game." Favre did throw 19 touchdown passes, behind only Steve Young, John Elway, Bobby Hebert, and Warren Moon. If



Favre falters, the Packers won't hesitate to try young Mark Brunell, impressive as a rookie in practice although he saw no action in games. Ty Detmer also looks capable. Favre is as durable as they get, and remains Holmgren's quarterback of the future. "I've thrown so much at him in two years, and sometimes you have to take a step backwards and then take two steps forward," Holmgren said.

With Sterling Sharpe around, sometimes it seems nothing else matters. Losing in New Orleans? Find Sharpe. Losing to Tampa Bay? There's Sharpe. One minute from playoff elimination against Detroit? Sharpe is standing alone in the end zone. He broke his own NFL record with 112 catches, 80 more than the team's other wide receiver, Mark Clayton, who has since departed. It is an imbalance that rivals nevertheless can't seem to exploit. Shutting down one receiver shouldn't be as difficult as Sharpe makes it. The Packers expect Robert Brooks to emerge on the other side after a season as a third receiver and kickreturn specialist. "I've told this to Sterling: He shouldn't catch 110 passes every years. Not if we have the other people in order and in line," Holmgren said. The Packers drafted three wide receivers in the fifth and sixth rounds to provide camp competition with Ron Lewis, Anthony Morgan, Lionel Crawford, and Willie Harris. Tight end Jackie Harris is the secondary target whose 14.4-yard average made him the "deep threat." Ed West remains the blocking tight end



At running back, the Packers expect free agent Reggie Cobb (Bucs) to return to the form that made him a 1,000-yard rusher in 1992 in Tampa. A midseason knee injury slowed him last fall, but he is a talent who will replace Thompson as the feature back Holmgren has not had. Fullback Edgar Bennett caught 59 passes and gained 550 rushing yards in establishing himself as a force. Thirdround draft choice LeShon Johnson promises to come in and take over from everybody after leading the nation in rushing at Northern Illinois. He has the speed to go all the way and provide a change of pace from Cobb. Backup fullback Dexter McNabb will be pushed by fifth-rounder Dorsey Levens.

Change on the offensive line is again expected with the addition of first-round draft choice Aaron Taylor of Notre Dame. He will take over for Rich Moran and Doug Widell at left guard next to tackle Ken Ruettgers, who is coming off his best season at age 31. Center Frank Winters is backed by Lance Zeno. Harry Galbreath is the right guard, with Joe Sims at right tackle, pushed by 320-pound Earl Dotson. Mirko Jurkovic, brother of nose tackle John. could make it as a backup guard.

New defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur is a master of creating systems to fit personnel, and it's a good thing. Since the Packers appear to have more linemen than linebackers, they may switch from the 3-4 to the 4-3. Sean Jones (Oilers) arrives to help Reggie White and could move right end Matt Brock to tackle alongside the tenacious Jurkovic. Scott Mersereau arrived from the Jets and ex-Viking Gilbert Brown adds depth inside, along with fourth-round choice Gabe Wilkins. Don Davey and ex-49er Matt LaBounty are other re-



serves. White tied for the NFC lead with 13 sacks last year, living up to his billing on a defense that finished second in the league without an abundance of stars.

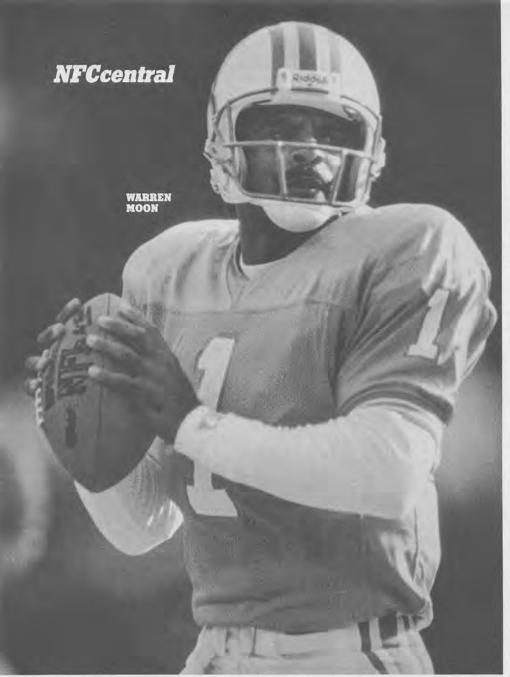
Bryce Paup is a versatile linebacker who played inside in a pinch but will replace Tony Bennett (Colts) outside. He also can play down with Jones moving to tackle in a 4-3 look. Wayne Simmons expects to shake the rookie injury bug and become a fixture at left linebacker, with inside spots a question mark depending on the availability of Johnny Holland, James Willis, George Koonce, and the surgically repaired Mark D'Onofrio. Keo Coleman is coming off a broken leg after some impressive stints as a fill-in.

Terrell Buckley continues to look for more consistency at left corner, where he wants to make more big plays than he gives up. Doug Evans or Sammy Walker could challenge Roland Mitchell at the other side, with versatile Corey Harris also a possibility. Walker is the

nickel back. LeRoy Butler was inexplicably snubbed in Pro Bowl voting after an all-pro year at strong safety in which he added six interceptions to 90 tackles. George Teague capped a rookie season at corner and free safety with a 101-yard interception return to help oust the Lions in the playoffs. If a thyroid condition that caused him to lose weight is under control, Teague should develop fast now that he's strictly the free safety. Mike Prior and Tim Hauck are backups.

Place-kicker Chris Jacke was 12 of 14 beyond 40 yards and doesn't have indoor luxury. Craig Hentrich will push punter Bryan Wagner. Corey Harris and LeShon Johnson will return kickoffs, with Prior and the young receivers slated for punt-return duty.

10.	PACKER!	pos	hl	wt	age	college
34	Bennett, Edgar	FB	6-0	216	25	Florida State
62	Brock, Matl		6-5	280	28	Oregon
37	Brooks, Robert	WB	6-0	174	24	South Carolina
71	Brown, Gilbert		6-2	330	23	Kansas
B	Brunell, Mark		6-1	208	24	Washington
27	Buckley, Terrell	CB	5-9	174	23	Florida State
36	Butter, LeRoy	S	6-0	193	26	Florida State
39	Chmura, Mark	TE	6-5	242	25	Boston College
32	Cobb, Reggie	RB	6-0	215	26	Tennessee
54	Coleman Keo	LB	6-1	255	24	Mississippi State
32	Crawford, Lionell	WR	5-10	185	25	Wisconsin
99	Daview Dan	DE	6-4	270	26	Wisconsin
11	Detrner, Ty	08	6-0	190	27	Brigham Young
58.	D'Onofrio, Mark	LB	6-2	235	25	Penn State
72	DUISUIT, Edil	A.mini	6-3	320	24	Texas A&I
33	Evans, Doug	CB	6-0	188	24	Louisiana Tech
93	Evans, Mike	DE.	6-3		27	Michigan
4	Favre, Brett	QB	6-2	218	25	Southern Miss
76	Galbreath, Harry	G	6-1	275	29	Tennessee
30	Harris, Corey		5-11	195	25	Vanderbilt
80	Harris, Jackie	TE	6-3	243	26	NE Louisiana
83	Harris, Willie	WR	6-1	194	24	Mississippi State
24	Hauck, IIII	C	5-10		28	Montana
17	Hentrich, Graig	P/K		200	23	Notre Dame
50	Holland, Johnny		6-2	235	29	Texas A&M
67	Hutchins, Paul	mennT	6-4		24	Western Michigan
13	Jacke, Chris	K		200	28	UTEP
96	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	275	32	Northeastern
64	Jurkovic, John Jurkovic, Mirko Koonce, George	NT	6-2	285	27	Eastern Illinois
77	Jurkovic, Mirko	G	6-3	290	24	Notre Dame
53	Koonce, George	LB	6-1	238	26	East Carolina
97	LaBounty, Matt	DE	6-3	254	25	Oregon
85	Lewis, Ron	WR	5-11	189	26	Florida State
44	McNabb, Dexter	FB	6-1	245	25	Florida
57	Merriweather, Mile	E LB	6-2	228	34	Pacific
94	Mersereau, Scott.	NI	6-3	275	29	S. Connecticut
47	Mitchell, Roland	UB	5-11	195	30	Texas Tech
81	Morgan, Anthony	WK	6-1	195 247	27 26	Tennessee
95	Paup, Bryce	- LD	6-5 6-0	215	31	Northern Iowa Illinois State
45 73	Prior, Mike	urmin 3	6-5	315	36	East Carolina
75	Ruettgers, Ken		6-6	290		USC
84	Sharpe, Sterling	W/D	6-1	210		South Carolina
59	Simmons, Wayne	12	6-2	240		Clemson
68	Sims, Joe		6-3	310		Nebraska
31	Teague, George		6-1	187		Alabama
9	Wagner, Bryan		6-2	200		
23	Walker, Sammy	CB	5-11	203		Texas Tech
86	West, Ed	TE	6-1	245		Aubum
92	White, Reggie	DE	6-5	290		Tennessee
74	Widell, Doug	C	6-4	280		Boston College
20	Williams, Kevin	RR	6-1	215		UCLA
43	Williams, Mark		6-3	229		Ohio State
56	Willis, James			235		Aubum
29	Wilson Marcus	RR	6-1	210		Virginia
52	Winters, Frank		6-3	285		Western Illinois
60	Zeno, Lance		6-4	279		UCLA
-						
rd.	name	pos	ht.	EE.		lege
1	Taylor, Aaron	0	6-4	303	_	re Dame
3	Johnson, LeShon	BB	6-0	201		them Illinois
4	Wilkins Gahe	DE	6-6	326		dner-Webb
5	Wilkins, Gabe Mickens, Terry Levens, Dorsey	WR	6-2	197		rida A&M
5	Levens Dorsey	BR	6-1	221		orgia Tech
6	Kearney Jay	WR	6-2			st Virginia
6	Kearney, Jay Hamilton, Ruffin	LB	6-2	227		ane
	The state of the state of the	-	1000			
6	Schroeder, Bill Duckworth, Paul	WR	6-3	200	Wit	sLa Crosse



MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Warren Moon represents another step up the ladder of progress for Minnesota coach Dennis Green. The Vikings seem to thrive on change. The former Oiler will be Green's fourth starting quarterback in three seasons, following Rich Gannon, Sean Salisbury, and Jim McMahon. Age doesn't seem to matter. Gannon was 27, Salisbury 29, McMahon 34, and Moon is 37 as he starts for the Vikings. Production is Green's measuring stick. Gannon and Salisbury won the NFC Central Division title in 1992; McMahon helped get the '93 team into the playoffs. Moon must take them further, something he was unable to do in 10 years with Houston.

Moon has thrown for 54,913 yards, more than any quarterback in pro football history. With 33,685 career passing yards in the NFL, he is the only quarterback to throw for more than 20,000 in two leagues, having left the Canadian Football League in 1984 with 21,228 yards. As a playoff quarterback with the Oilers, Moon had a 3-6 record. The Oilers never were able to advance to the AFC cham-

pionship game while Moon was there. But Moon's stature as a leader was never questioned. Last year, he helped provide the glue during a tumultuous season in which he was benched and his offensive coordinator, Kevin Gilbride, was feuding with defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan. Moon will join a club that also had problems. Green fired offensive coordinator Jack Burns after two games and promoted tight ends coach Brian Billick. Moon will not be working in the run-and-shoot offense that he engineered in Houston, but the run-and-shoot did not make Moon; Moon made the run-and-shoot. In the 49er-style attack Green prefers, Moon is expected to be just as effective and less vulnerable

Houston's offense was exposed in the playoffs when injuries to the Oiler offensive line and the lack of a tight end and fullback in the design left Moon naked in the pocket. For a man who will turn 38 in November, a more conventional offense offering better protection will be a welcome sight. Before trading for Moon, the Vikings addressed the concern of quarterback protection by signing free-agent

tackle Chris Hinton, who rejoins his coach at Northwestern, Green. Hinton will protect Moon's backside, returning to left tackle after a stellar career in which he has made the Pro Bowl at three positions. Behind Moon, the Vikings will rely on youngsters Gino Torretta and Brad Johnson, both of whom show promise.

Moon never had enough receivers in Houston, and that is the case in Minnesota, where Alabama's little David Palmer was added to a group in desperate need of a game-breaker to complement Cris Carter. Carter is one of the league's consistent big-play receivers, but the Vikings and the Washington Redskins were the only teams in the league last year without a receiver who averaged more than 13 yards per catch. Anthony Carter averaged 12.9. Qadry Ismail has the speed to get deep, but he lacked consistency as a rookie. Injuries have slowed the development of Jake Reed, so Palmer has a chance to make an immediate impact, and Moon is accustomed to finding diminutive receivers. The Vikings traded to land Steelers tight end Adrian Cooper, who arrived without much recommendation from his old team but with a fair track record playing with and behind Eric Green. Cooper could push veteran Steve Jordan to retirement.

Running back Scottie Graham rescued the Vikings last year with 487 yards in the final five games, four of them victories. His clutch performance eases anxiety about the health of Terry Allen and Robert Smith, both coming off knee injuries. Allen was a 1,000-yard performer in 1992 whose loss for the entire '93 season

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Reveiz, 105 points on 27 extra points and 26 field goals. . .7th

RUSHING—Graham, 487 yards on 118 carries, 4.1 avg., 3 TDs. . . . 16th

PASSING—McMahon, 200 of 331 attempts for 1,968 yards and 9 TDs...7th

RECEIVING—Carter, 86 receptions for 1,071 yards, 12.5 avg., 9 TDs. ... T4th

INTERCEPTIONS—Glenn, 5 for 49 yards, 9.8 average. . . T3rd
PUNTING—Newsome, 90 punts, 42.9 avg., longest 64

yards . . .6th
PUNT RETURNS—Guliford, 29 for 212 yards, 7.3 aver-

PUNT RETURNS—Guliford, 29 for 212 yards, 7.3 average. . . 10th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Ismail, 42 for 902 yards, 21.5 average. ...7th

SACKS—Doleman, 12.5 sacks...T2nd —Randle, 12.5 sacks...T2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July 31 At Dallas (N)
August 6 Kansas City at Tokyo, Japan (N)
13 NEW ORLEANS (N)

13 NEW ORLEANS (I 20 At Seattle (N)

26 MIAMI (NI)

	26	MIAMI (N)	
1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	At Green Bay	21-17
- College College	11	DETROIT	27-30
	18	At Chicago	19-12
	25		
October	2	At Arizona	
	10	At N.Y. Giants (N)	
	16	OPEN DATE	
	20	GREEN BAY (N)	15-13
	30	At Tampa Bay	10-23
November	6	NEW ORLEANS	14-17
	13	At New England	
	20		
	27	TAMPA BAY	15-0
December	1	CHICAGO (N)	10-7
	11	At Buffalo	
	17	At Detroit	13-0

26 SAN FRANCISCO (N)......19-38

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NATION WIDE!		State State MN 55	Zip

was a devastating blow. When No. 1 rookie Smith was healthy, he looked good, but he probably will be most effective when he doesn't have to carry the load. If both Allen and Smith are 100 percent, the Vikings feel comfortable with Graham, Charles Evans, and practice-squadder Alex Smith.

Hinton joins a revamped line, enabling former free-agent find Bernard Dafney to replace the departed Tim Irwin (Bucs) at right tackle. Dafney was adequate at left tackle after rookie Everett Lindsay started the season. Lindsay also can play guard, where perennial all-pro Randall McDaniel is a fixture on the left side next to Hinton. Second-year man John Gerak is a candidate to beat out Todd Kalis at right guard, with first-round draftee Todd Steussie capable of playing guard or tackle. Adam Schreiber graded well at center, so the Vikings appear to be deep and flexible up front.

Trading sack specialist Chris Doleman to the Falcons means new direction for the league's No. 1-ranked defense. Doleman was no longer the key to a front four trained to create havoc by line coach John Teerlinck. Tackle John Randle tied Doleman for most sacks with 12½ and was rewarded with a Pro Bowl berth. Tackle Henry Thomas missed the final three games with an ankle injury and still

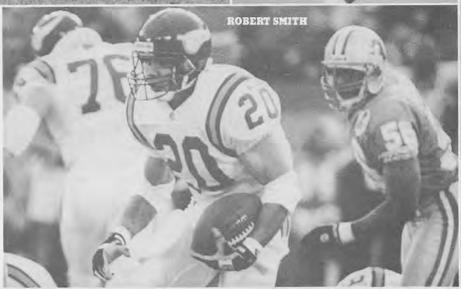
STEVE JORDAN

tied his career best of nine sacks. Young left end Roy Barker had six sacks. No other starting front four in football had so many sacks (40 of the team's 45). To replace Doleman, the Vikings think James Harris is ready to play. If he's not, then second-round draft choice Fernando Smith, who was compared to Richard Dent by Green. Barker could move to the right side and Robert Harris could step up his game. Other backups inside include Brad Culpepper, John Thornton, and fourth-rounder Mike Wells.

Because of the front four, the linebacking is adequate, led by middle man Jack Del Rio. He is flanked by weakside backer Fred Strickland and Carlos Jenkins. They were 1-2-3 in tackles last season. Ed McDaniel, Greg Manusky, Ashley Sheppard, Dave Garnett, and Bobby Abrams provide depth.

Cornerback DeWayne Washington of North Carolina State was the No. 1 draft choice and



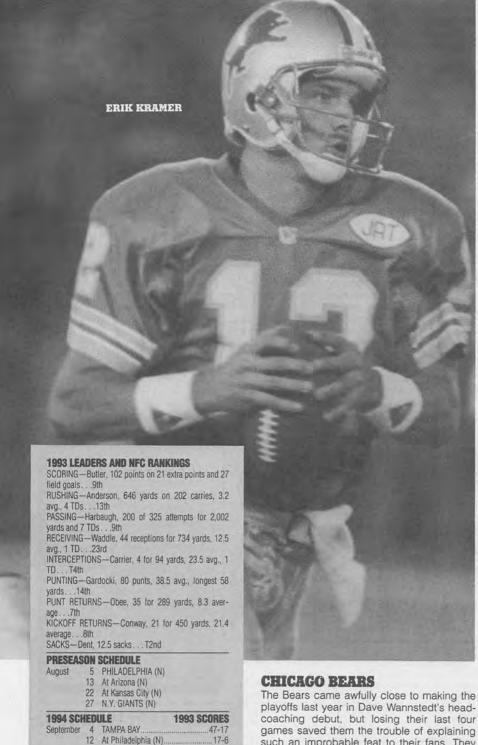


will replace Audrey McMillian at right corner opposite 33-year-old Carl Lee. Fifth-rounder Shelly Hammonds will compete with Anthony Parker and Jayice Pearson for backup spots. Free safety Vencie Glenn led the team in interceptions and strong safety Lamar McGriggs replaced Todd Scott, who battled injuries but could regain his star 1992 form.

Ismail and Eric Guliford returns kicks, but Palmer figures in this area. Fuad Reveiz was 25-25 on kicks under 46 yards. Harry Newsome punted well until the playoffs.

	VIKINGS VET	ER	AN	RO	STER
no.	name pos	ht	wt	age	college
50	Abrams, BobbyLB	6-3	230	27	Michigan
72	Adams, ScottOL	6-5	293	28	Georgia
21		5-10	197	26	Clemson
92	Barker, RoyDT	6-4	280	25	North Carolina
96	Boudreaux, Frank DT	6-5	273	24	Northwestern
67	Boyd, TracyT	6-4	296 168	27	Elizabeth City St. Michigan
81 80	Carter, AnthonyWR	6-3	198	29	Ohio State
62	Carter, CrisWR Christy, JeffC	6-3	277	25	Pittsburgh
87	Cooper, Adrian TE	6-5		26	Oklahoma
33	Craig. RogerRB	6-0	211	34	Nebraska
77	Culpepper, BradDT	6-1	260	26	Florida
75	Dafney Bernard	6-5	331	25	Tennessee
55	Del Rio, JackLB	6-4	243	31	USC
29	Evans, CharlesRB	6-1	226	27	Clark .
54	Garnett, DaveLB	6-2	219	24	Stanford
66	Gerak, JohnG	6-3		24	Penn State
25	Glenn, Vencie	6-0		30	Indiana State
31	Graham, ScottieRB	5-9	215	25	Ohio State
84	Guinord, EricWK	5-8	165	25	Arizona State
99	Harris, JamesDE	6-4		26	Temple
90	Harris, RobertDE	6-4	260	25 25	Southern N.C. State
48	Harrison, Todd TE	6-4	305		Northwestern
82	Hinton, ChrisT Ismail, QadryWR	6-0			Syracuse
51	Jenkins, CarlosLB	6-3	217	26	Michigan State
14	Johnson, Brad QB		221	26	Florida State
52	Jones, DonaldLB	6-0		25	Washington
11	Jones, RichardP	6-3	198	29	Arizona State
32	Jones, ShawnS	6-1	200	24	Georgia Tech
83	Jordan, Steve TE	6-3	242		Brown
69	Kalis, ToddG	6-5	289		Arizona State
39	Lee, Carl CB Lenseigne, Tony TE	5-11	186		Marshall
45	Lenseigne, Tony TE	6-4	235		E. Washington
61	Lindsay, Everett	6-4	290		Mississippi
91	Manusky, GregLB	6-1	233		Colgate
58	McDaniel, Ed LB	5-11	230		Clemson Arizona State
64	McDaniel, RandallG	6-3	275		Western Illinois
37	McGriggs, Lamar S Moon, Warren QB	6-3	212		Washington
68	Morris, MikeC	6-5	284		NE Missouri St.
18	Newsome, HarryP	6-0	193		Wake Forest
85	Novoselsky, Brent TE	6-2	237		Pennsylvania
27	Parker, Anthony CB	5-10	181		Arizona State
24	Pearson, Jayice CB	5-11	184	31	Washington
93	Randle, JohnDT	6-1	275	27	Texas A&I
86	Reed, JakeWR	6-3			Grambling
7	Reveiz, FuadK	5-11	223		Tennessee
12	Salisbury, Sean QB	6-5			USC
60	Schreiber, AdamOL	6-4	288		Texas
38	Scott, ToddS	5-10	207		SW Louisiana
59	Sheppard, Ashley LB	6-3	243		Clemson
57	Sims, WilliamLB	6-3	265		SW Louisiana
22	Smith, Alex	5-10			Auburn Ohio State
20	Smith, RobertRB Staten, RobertRB	5-11			Jackson State
53	Strickland, FredLB				Purdue
46	Tennell, DerekTE				UCLA
97	Thomas, HenryDT				LSU
94	Thorton, JohnDT	6-3			Cincinnati
13	Torretta, Gino QB	6-2			Miami
89	Torretta, Gino OB Truitt, Olanda WR	6-0			Mississippi State
98	Tuaolo, EseraDT	6-2			Oregon State
35	West, RonnieWR	6-1			Pittsburg State
23	Word, BarryRB	6-2	24	2 31	Virginia

	D	25.6	TE I.	20.	
d.	name p	05	ht	wt	college
1	Washington, DeWayne	СВ	5-11	192	N.C. State
1	Steussie, Todd	OT	6-6	315	California
2	Palmer, David V	VR	5-8	167	Alabama
2	Smith, Fernando	DE	6-5	284	Jackson State
4	Wells, Mike	DT	6-4	280	lowa
5	Hammonds, Shelly	DB	5-10	190	Penn State
6	Jordan, Andrew	TE	6-6	260	Western Carolina
7	Bercich, Pete	LB	6-2	237	Notre Dame



12-19

10-6

30-17

10-13

14-20

7-10

.3-17

.6-10

playoffs last year in Dave Wannstedt's headcoaching debut, but losing their last four games saved them the trouble of explaining such an improbable feat to their fans. They simply weren't that good. A 7-5 record after a four-game winning streak teased expectations beyond reality. The Bears won an unprecedented three road games in 11 days on the way, but they soon returned to a more believable level.

While Wannstedt's defense improved from 24th after the opening game to fourth after game 16, the offense was non-existent. It finished 28th only because there are just 28 teams. To correct the problem, Wannstedt will start 1994 with as many as 10 new starters on offense. The only sure holdover is left guard Mark Bortz. The idea is to upgrade speed at

all positions, sometimes at all cost. So determined was Wannstedt to improve the overall team speed that he drafted receiver Curtis Conway in the first round last season without much caring who would throw to him, who would block, who would run. Conway showed promise, but he became just the first brick in the building process, unable to make a difference by himself.

This year, the Bears jettisoned quarterback Jim Harbaugh and replaced him with Erik Kramer of the Lions. What Detroit coach Wayne Fontes failed to see in Kramer was apparent to Wannstedt every time he played him. Kramer has won 13 NFL games as a starter, three against Wannstedt defenses in Dallas and Chicago. He has thrown 27 touchdown passes, seven against Wannstedt defenses. He may be a third-stringer to Fontes, but he

10.	name pos	ht	wt	age	college
93	Armstrong, TraceDE	6-4	265	29	*Florida
70	Auzenne, TroyT	6-7	290	25	California
91	Baker, MyronLB	6-1	228	23	Louisiana Tech
47	Blaylock, Anthony CB	5-10	185	29	Winston-Salem
30	Brewer, Dewell HB	5-8	203	24	
81	Brooks, Anthony WR	5-11	179	26	East Texas State
33	Burger, ToddG	6-3		24	Penn State
52	Bortz, MarkG	6-6	282	33	lowa
6	Butler, KevinK	6-1	204	32	Georgia
59	Cain, JoeLB	6-1	233	29	Oregon Tech
20	Carrier, MarkS	6-1	192	26	USC
44	Christian, BobRB	5-10	225	26	Northwestern
80	Conway, Curtis WH	6-0	185	23	USC
54	Cox, RonLB	6-2	235	26	Fresno State
82	Davis, Wendell WR	6-0	188	28	LSU
37	Douglass, Maurice CB	5-11	202	30	Kentucky
65	Epps, ToryDT	6-1	280	27	Memphis State
74	Fontenot, AlbertDE	6-4	265	24	Baylor
67	Fontenot, JerryOL		287	28	Texas A&M
17	Gardocki, ChrisP/K	6-1	188	24	Clemson
23		5-11		32	Ohio State
84	Gedney, ChrisTE	6-5	262	24	Syracuse
22	Green, RobertRB		209	24	William & Mary
86	Harris, WillieWR	6-1	193	24	Mississippi State
64	Heck, AndyT	6-6	298	27	Notre Dame
33		6-2	230	29	Idaho State
88	Holder, ChirsWR	6-0		26	Tuskeegee
85	Jennings, Keith TE	6-4	265	28	Clemson
25	Johnson, Keshon CB	5-10	179	24	Arizona
53	Jones, DanteLB	6-2	230	29	Oklahoma Purdue
72	Krnet, Frank OL-DL				
12	Kozlowski, GlenWR	6-1		32	N.C. State
58	Kramer, Erik QB	6-2	288	25	Colorado
39	Leeuwenburg, Jay OL Lincoln, Jeremy CB	5-10	180	25	Tennessee
26	Mangum, JohnS	5-10		27	Alabama
9	Matthews, Shane,, QB	6-3	197	24	Florida
60	McGuire, GeneC	6-2	286	24	Notre Dame
24	Miniefield, Kevin CB	5-9	178	24	Arizona State
92	Minter, Barry LB	6-2	242	24	Tulsa
69	Myslinski, TomG			26	Tennessee
83	Myslinski, TomG Obee, TerryWR	5-10	180		Oregon
75	Perry, ToddG	6-5	298		Kentucky
99	Perry, Todd		265	27	USC
52	Schwantz, JimLB	6-2	232	24	Purdue
98	Simpson, CarlDT	6-2		24	Florida State
55	Smith, VinsonLB	6-2		29	
96		6-2			Michigan State
90	Spellman, Alonzo DE	6-4			Ohio State
	Tillman, LewisRB	6-0	195	28	
87	Waddle, TomWR	6-0	185	27	Boston College
	Walsh, Steve QB Wetnight, Ryan TE	6-3	204	28	Miami
89	Wetnight, RyanTE	6-2		24	Stanford
71	Williams, James	6-7	330	26	Cheyney State
73	Wojciechowski, JohnG	6-4		31	Michigan State
21	Woolford, Donnell CB			28	
38	Worley, TimRB	6-2	226	28	Georgia
97	Zorich, ChrisDT	6-1	275	25	Notre Dame
rd.	name pos	AFT.	EES		/ege
-		-	-	-500	
1	Thierry, JohnLB	6-4	248		orn State
2		6-4	302		rthwestern La.
3	Flanigan, Jim DT	6-2	276		re Dame
	Harris, Raymont RB	6-1	220	Un	io State
	Hill I lovd WR	6.2	100		as Tech

DRAFTEES						
rd.	name	pas	ht	wt	college	
1	Thierry, John	LB	6-4	248	Alcorn State	
2	Spears, Marcus	OL	6-4	302	Northwestern La.	
3	Flanigan, Jim	DT	6-2	276	Notre Dame	
4	Harris, Raymont	RB	6-1	220	Ohio State	
6	Hill, Lloyd	WR	6-2	180	Texas Tech	
7	Collier, Dennis	S	5-9	190	Colorado	

18 MINNESOTA.

BUFFALO.

16 OPEN DATE.

23 At Detroit.

13 At Miami.

20 DETROIT

27 At Arizona

9 NEW ORLEANS

25

6

October

November

December

At N.Y. Jets (N)

GREEN BAY (N).

At Minnesota (N).

At Green Bay ..

NEW ENGLAND

L.A. RAMS

At Tampa Bay.

was a first-stringer to Wannstedt. The Bears were so sure of Kramer that he became the first quarterback to sign in the offseason, starting the musical chairs in the NFC Central and elsewhere. The Bears rated Kramer ahead of Scott Mitchell, who was signed by the Lions. The Bears didn't even consider Warren Moon, signed by the Vikings. They didn't want to make an offer to Packers' restricted free agent Brett Favre. They didn't want to wait and try to draft Trent Differ, chosen by the Buccaneers. Steve Walsh, familiar to Wannstedt in Dallas, signed as a backup



from the Saints and second-year man Shane Matthews is in reserve.

Turnover has occurred faster at running back than at any other position. Last year, the Bears signed Craig Heyward and Tim Worley to replace Brad Muster and Neal Anderson. This year, they signed Lewis Tillman (Giants) and Merril Hoge (Steelers) to replace Heyward and Worley. Then they drafted Raymont Harris, who might replace the latest replacements. And the running game was the best part of the Bears' offense last season, finishing 19th in the league.

The receiving corps is in flux, with Conway hopeful that some added weight and maturity will enable him to become all he can be. He caught only 19 passes last year, two for touchdowns, and averaged just 12 yards per catch. Opposite Conway, the job is open, with third-down plugger and leading receiver Tom Waddle and overachiever Terry Obee the hold-overs and Wannstedt constantly checking the waiver lists. At tight end, second-year prospect Chris Gedney expects to shake the injuries that ruined his rookie season. Keith Jennings is an adequate backup.

Bortz is the lone remnant of one of the best and most durable offensive lines of the '80s. When it eroded, so did the fortunes of a team that dominated its division. Wannstedt spent an uncharacteristically high draft choice (sec-

that dominated its division. Wannstedt spent an uncharacteristically high draft choice (second) on a tackle, Marcus Spears, to provide competition for Troy Auzenne on the vital left side. If neither pans out, former Seahawk free agent Andy Heck will move from right tackle,

where he replaces the retired Keith Van Horne and young fill-in Jay Leeuwenburg. Second-year man Todd Perry figures to start at right guard opposite Bortz. Leeuwenburg will push Jerry Fontenot at center or push somebody somewhere for a starting spot after an exception at season playing out of position at both tackles. Veteran John Wojciechowski and former defensive lineman James Williams are also in the picture.

Wannstedt's defense is the glue that keeps the team competitive throughout the rebuilding, but the Bears will try to maintain their effectiveness without Richard Dent for the first time since 1983. Dent is one of the league's all-time leading sackers. Wannstedt wanted

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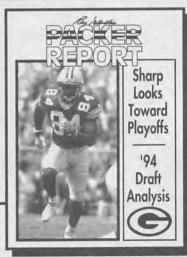
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him to return, but not at the price the 33-yearold Dent sought. When the Bears drafted Alcorn State linebacker John Thierry in the first round. Dent's future in Chicago was past. Thierry is bigger than Dent was when he arrived a decade ago, so the Bears think they have a faster, younger talent who can develop into their premier rusher on the right side. Alonzo Spellman, their 1992 No. 1 draft choice, will be the starter in Dent's spot so Thierry doesn't feel the immediate pressure. The Bears also released Steve McMichael, 36, the oldest defensive tackle in the league, and drafted Notre Dame's Jim Flanigan in the third round, immediately labeling him "a young Steve McMichael." Flanigan will battle second-year tackle Carl Simpson for a spot opposite his former Notre Dame teammate Chris Zorich, who had seven sacks last year. Left end Trace Armstrong is coming off his best year, finishing with 111/2 sacks, one fewer than Dent, and three fumble recoveries. Spellman, Albert Fontenot, and Tim Ryan give the Bears the kind of flexibility and depth on the defensive line that made the Cowboys so effective.



Dante Jones emerged as a worthy successor to Mike Singletary at middle linebacker, leading the team in tackles and tying safety Mark Carrier for the team lead with four interceptions, three more than Singletary ever made in a single season. Ex-Cowboy Vinson Smith is a versatile linebacker who starts on the left but can also play the middle. Ex-Seahawk Joe Cain plays the right side. Myron Baker and Barry Minter are backups.

Donnell Woolford made the Pro Bowl at left cornerback, making enough big plays to put him into the elite class near the Eagles' Eric Allen and the Falcons' Deion Sanders. Anthony Blaylock started nine games and while injured watched Jeremy Lincoln start seven. Lincoln's three interceptions (Blaylock had two) means the Bears have unusual depth and talent at a vital spot. Keshon Johnson also played well as a rookie. Carrier is solid at free safety, but he may have to adjust to someone other than Shaun Gayle at strong safety. John Mangum is on the small but smart side, making him a worthy replacement candidate for the 32-year-old Gayle. Maurice Douglass is a special-teams' player and backup safety.

Kevin Butler made more field goals from 50plus yards than he did from 40-49 yards, but he survives the Soldier Field winds as well as anyone. Chris Gardocki has developed into an outstanding punter. Opponents returned only 22 of 80 punts and only Jeff Feagles dropped more inside the 20. Conway and Obee return kicks and punts, but neither looks irreplaceable.



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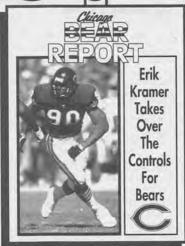
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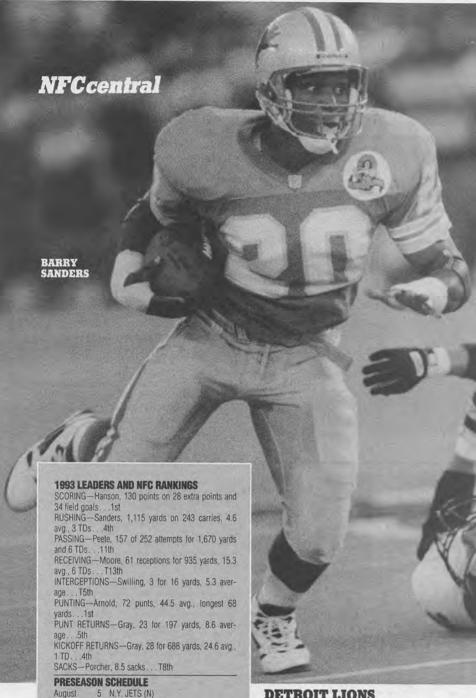
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DETROIT LIONS

After winning their second NFC Central Division title in three years with Erik Kramer at quarterback, the Lions pulled some strange offseason maneuvering. First, they let Kramer get away to the Chicago Bears without much resistance. Coach Wayne Fontes explained he never was "comfortable" with Kramer-or with any of his quarterbacks, for that matter. Then the Lions delved into free agency with a passion, outbidding the Vikings for Miami's young left-hander, Scott Mitchell. They gave him a \$5 million signing bonus, an "insane" offer, according to the Vikings. Mitchell started seven games in relief of the injured Dan Marino last year, and the Dolphins lost the last three to fall out of the playoff picture.

Obviously, Fontes is tying his future directly to his quarterback, which he figures has been the missing link in his team's quest for consistent success. The feeling in Detroit is that Kramer was just along for the ride when the Lions won in 1991 and '93. All the other parts, they think, are now tuned and ready. If the quarterback delivers, the Lions can take the next step on the road to the Super Bowl. To relieve some pressure on Mitchell, the Lions added veteran David Krieg from the Kansas City Chiefs as a backup in the final admission they have given up on both Rodney Peete and Andre Ware.

"I told Wayne, and he agrees, that while we were pleased to have won the NFC Central Division championship, it's time to move to the next level," said owner William Clay Ford.

Fontes is fourth in NFL tenure with the same team, behind only Miami's Don Shula, New Orleans's Jim Mora, and Buffalo's Mary Levy. What he won't have going for him in 1994 is the fifth-place schedule that helped him win last year. In fact, based on last year's results, the Lions have the toughest schedule in the NFC. Nobody plays more games against plus-.500 teams (9) and playoff teams (8).

Mitchell's \$5 million signing bonus will buy a lot of comfort, but it will no doubt cause problems as well. Rescuing Dan Marino is one level of job responsibility; carrying a team to the Super Bowl on demand is another. First, Mitchell must win the division just to get even with Kramer. Mitchell's numbers were impressive last year as he threw 12 touchdown passes and eight interceptions in his eight appearances. Four of those picks came in his final game against the Patriots.



To make certain Mitchell would have prime targets, the Lions passed up more pressing defensive needs to select wide receiver Johnnie Morton of USC in the first round. They also re-signed Brett Perriman. Herman Moore is the No. 1 receiver. His average per catch of 15.3 yards was third in the league behind Irving Fryar and Henry Ellard among all receivers with at least 60 catches. Willie Green can be a factor. Morton must adjust to the big time faster than his former USC teammate Curtis Conway did with Chicago.

After Fontes fired offensive coordinator Dan Henning and replaced him with Dave Levy with a month to go last season, the Lions won three of their last four with Kramer and without

114

13 At Cleveland (N)

26 At Cincinnati (N)

At Minnesota.

At Dallas (N)

25 NEW ENGLAND

At Tampa Bay SAN FRANCISCO.

OPEN DATE

At N.Y. Giants

At Chicago.

GREEN BAY

At N.Y. Jets

MINNESOTA

25 At Miami (N)

BUFFALO. 24

TAMPA BAY (N)...

Green Bay at Milwaukee, WI.

CHICAGO

1993 SCORES

30-27

10-27

17-55

.6-10

17-26

.23-0

20-14

30-20

.0-13

19 ARIZONA (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

October

November

December

September 4 ATLANTA

16

23

30

6

13

20

4

10

17

Barry Sanders to grab the division and home field before losing with Sanders in the first round to the Packers. Levy remains in charge and will continue to run a more conventional offense than the run-and-shoot, which Henning was phasing out. Signing tight end Ron Hall from the Bucs was the first sign of this.

The outstanding showing of running backs Derrick Moore and Eric Lynch during the five games Sanders sat out with a knee injury opens the possibility for more two-back sets, or at least for some rest for Sanders, who became the third running back to surpass 1,000 yards in each of his first five seasons. (The first two were Tony Dorsett and Eric Dickerson.) Sanders exploded for 169 yards against the Packers in the playoffs after his five-game absence, allaying fears of any lingering effects.

The offensive line is again ready for some tinkering, with backup guards Shawn Bouwens and Mike Compton both pushing for starting jobs held last season by former free agents Dave Richards and Bill Fralic. Another 1993 free agent, Dave Lutz, will get competition from Larry Tharpe at right tackle. Left tackle Lomas Brown, nagged by injuries a year ago, is looking for a return to Pro Bowl form, while center Kevin Glover is developing into Pro Bowl consideration. Draftee Tony Semple joins Scott Conover and long snapper Mark Rodenhauser as backups.

Five of Fontes's seven draft picks were on defense and two free-agent signees were starters elsewhere: cornerback Robert Massey (Cardinals) and linebacker Mike Johnson (Browns). They will replace lost free agents Ray Crockett (Broncos) and Dennis Gibson (Chargers). Linebacker Pat Swilling improved the speed of the front seven when he arrived from the Saints last year. He registered 61/2 sacks and led the team with three interceptions. Left end Robert Porcher led the club with 81/2 sacks and is ready for a breakthrough season. He is joined up front by converted end Marc Spindler at nose tackle and a former No. 1 draft choice, Kelvin Pritchett, who has yet to live up to his billing. Dan Owens is a veteran backup and Tennessee's Shane Bonham was drafted to help.

Swilling upgraded the linebacking, where George Jamison finished up on the left side. Tracy Scroggins, who had eight sacks, and Tracy Hayworth saw playing time mainly as rushers. Middle linebacker Chris Spielman led

the team in tackles for the sixth year and was the defensive MVP for his relentless leadership. Johnson was dumped by Cleveland after a subpar season, but he has talent. Victor Jones and Toby Caston are backups.

Trouble looms deep, where it left off when the Packers' Sterling Sharpe ran past cornerback Kevin Scott for the winning touchdown in the playoffs. Three of the Lions' six draft choices were defensive backs, but secondround pick Van Malone is strictly a safety and later picks Vaughn Bryant and Jocelyn Borgella are corners without great speed. That leaves last year's top pick, Ryan McNeil, on

the spot to produce along with ex-Cardinal Massey. Fontes hopes Bennie Blades is recovered from a compound leg fracture to resume his intimidating play at free safety. If not, the solid William White at strong safety will need help from Malone and reserves Harry Colon and Willie Clay.

After a fight to retain him, the Lions lost outstanding special-teams' coach Frank Gansz to the Falcons. Punter Jim Arnold signed with Miami, but Mel Gray still looks like he can return kicks at age 33 and Jason Hanson is among the few who won't be bothered by kicking off from the 30-yard line.







LIONS VETERAN ROSTER Arkansas 43 Anderson, Gary 100 33 NE Louisiana 305 Baliste Raymond Miam Blades, Bennie. 221 Bouwens, Shawn 6-4 290 26 Neb.-Weslevan DE 260 70 75 Brown Emie 6-2 Syracuse 6-4 287 Florida Brown, Lomas. South Carolina 68 50 32 21 77 76 53 Burton Leonard 30 6-1 243 29 LSU 5-9 184 24 Georgia Tech Caston, Toby. Clay, Willie . Colon, Harry CB 203 Missour 6-6 297 24 6-4 285 26 Compton, Mike C/G 24 West Virginia Conover Scott Purdue 6-2 282 Maryland Glover, Kevin 23 Gray, Mel. WR 5-9 171 WR 5-10 170 33 Purdue Illinois Benedictine Green, Eric. 23 181 Mississippi 86 WR. 6-2 Green. Willia Hall, Ron. 6-4 245 Hawali TE 6-3 249 K 5-11 183 23 Michigan State 49 Hallock, Tv. Washington State Hanson, Jason 6-3 280 Tennessee Hayworth, Tracy 82 58 25 TE LB 6-3 238 6-1 235 Holman, Rodney 34 Tulane Cincinnati Jamison, George 184 Jeffries, Greg. CB Virginia 6-1 230 6-3 282 Johnson, Mike LB 32 Virginia Tech 24 Hampton Institute 61 57 Jones, Jason Jones, Victor Virginia Tech Kowalkowski, Scott... 6-2 228 26 Notre Dame 6-1 202 36 Milton Krieg, Dave. OB 234 55 LB 6-2 Alabama 23 London, Antonio 16 Long, Chuck... 217 6-6 5-10 305 224 73 Lutz, David. G/T 35 Georgia Tech Grand Valley St. 26 RB Lynch, Eric. 40 Massey, Robert Matthews, Aubrey .WR .CB 5-7 165 6-0 174 32 31 Delta State Texas-Arlington McKyer, Tim. McNeil, Ryan 187 24 Miami CB 19 Mitchell, Scott. QB 6-6 230 6-1 227 26 27 Liteh NE Oklahoma St. 31 84 Moore. Dernick .RB 6-3 210 Moore Herman Virginia 6-3 280 27 USC Owens, Dan WR 5-9 180 80 Perriman, Brett. 29 Miami 6-0 275 Nebraska 96 Pete. Lawrence 28 Porcher, Robert S.C. State 205 281 23 25 Michigan Powers, Ricky .. RB 6-0 Mississippi 94 DE 6-2 Pritchett Kelvin Richards, Dave 310 23 Northern Illinois Roberts. Ray... TE 6-2 251 Rodenhauser, Mark 63 6-5 280 Illinois State Ryans, Larry Oklahoma State Sanders, Barry 5-8 203 5-9 175 RB 25 Stanford Scott, Kevin. CB Scroggins, Tracy Spielman, Chris LB 6-0 247 29 Ohio State 25 30 6-5 290 Pittsburgh 93 Spindler, Marc. DE Georgia Tech Swilling, Pat... Tharpe, Larry...... Thompson, Marty. 6-4 299 24 Tennessee State 6-3 243 25 Fresno State 6-1 280 24 California TE Travis, Mack ... 6-2 205 5-10 191 26 Houston Ware, Andre 28 24 White. William Ohio State 6-3 253 24 Tenno 5-9 180 22 TCU Wilson, James Woodley, Richard WR

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1	Morton, Johnnie, W	/R	6-0	189	USC	
	Malone, Van D					
3	Bonham, Shane D	T	6-4	260	Tennessee:	
4	Bryant, Vaughn	B	5-11	180	Stanford	
5	Semple, Tony	G	6-4	287	Memphis State	
6	Borgella, Jocelyn D	B	5-10	179	Cincinnati	
7	Beer, Thomas	В	6-1	239	Wayne State	



TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Trent Dilfer was the obvious choice for the Buccaneers to draft. The young quarterback from Fresno State immediately proclaimed himself lucky to get the opportunity to be tutored by Bucs coach Sam Wyche, who has plenty of experience at such things. Wyche looked happy to get him, too, but you have to wonder: Does Wyche have the luxury of time to develop another young quarterback? You also have to wonder: Will this create more problems than it solves? Upon selecting Dilfer, Wyche immediately proclaimed satisfaction with the incumbent, young Craig Erickson. As usual, the signals are mixed in Tampa Bay. After back-to-back 5-11 seasons, the Bucs thought they were finally on the right track at the most important position.

"There's no question Erickson is our starter. We can go to the playoffs with Craig Erickson," Wyche said. "We are not looking for a

quarterback."

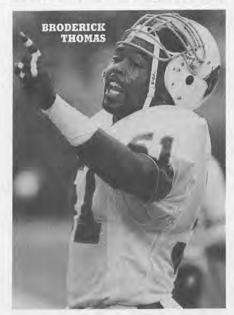
So where does Dilfer fit? On the bench, probably, until the Bucs lose a game or two or three. Then the impatience will surface and Dilfer's name will be chanted and Wyche will have to keep making decisions about one position he didn't think required attention.

Instead of plugging a leak at a spot where the need is more obvious, the Bucs had to wait until the second round to start their draft. There, they felt really lucky to land running back Errict Rhett, who broke some of Emmitt Smith's records at Florida. Rhett also carries a stigma for being too slow. Come to think of it,

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that's another trait he shares with Smith, who was never considered a burner. Rhett's presence follows the exit of free agent Reggie Cobb to the Packers.

The Bucs figure their latest 5-11 record is more promising than the 5-11 record of 1992. "Our division was the most improved in football with three playoff teams. Yet by the end of the season, I don't think our team was taking a



back seat to any of them. We are looking forward to competing for the division title," Wyche said. The Bucs beat the Lions, Vikings, and Broncos—all '93 playoff teams—and barely lost to the Packers and Raiders in the last six weeks of the season while those teams made their playoff push. This year, the Bucs get the notoriously weak fifth-place schedule, but that is familiar territory that hasn't necessarily helped them. Their schedule is the weakest in the league, according to last season's won-lost records.

Assuming Erickson is the starter for game one. Wyche does have a quarterback he likes. Although he finished 24th in the league in passer rating in his first season as a starter, Erickson was 11th in yardage (3,054) and sixth in touchdown passes (18). His problem was interceptions (21), something Wyche thinks he can control. "He studies like no quarterback I've ever been around, he competes on the field, and he throws with strength and accuracy," Wyche said. Casey Weldon will show Dilfer how to carry the clipboard while Erickson plays.

Rhett must make a more immediate impact than Dilfer if the Bucs are to rebound from the loss of Cobb. Hampered by a knee injury for part of last season, Cobb wasn't the same back who gained 1,100 yards in 1992, but he wasn't a rookie either. Vince Workman will get the first shot at winning the starting spot, but neither Workman nor Rhett is the breakaway type. Neither was Cobb, though. Rudy Harris, Anthony McDowell, and converted receiver

Vernon Turner are also in the running at full-back, with Workman. The Bucs finished 27th in rushing last year.

Receiving is less of a problem. The Bucs got a gem in Horace Copeland, a fourth-round rookie who played like a first-rounder and gave Erickson a legitimate deep threat. Only the Raiders' James Jett (23.4) and the Cowboys' Alvin Harper (21.6) had bigger averages than Copeland (21.1) for receivers who caught at least 30 passes. With Lawrence Dawsey out with a knee injury, Courtney Hawkins developed into a good third-down receiver to complement Copeland. Hawkins led the club with 62 catches and five touchdowns, and the competition will be interesting when Dawsey returns. Lamar Thomas is a capable backup. At tight end, the Bucs lost Ron Hall to Detroit after a subpar year and drafted LSU's Harold Bishop to compete with Tyji Armstrong and Dave Moore.

Protecting Erickson is a priority, but the Bucs got better after the fifth game when left tackle Paul Gruber returned from a contract impasse. If he picks up where he left off, he will return to Pro Bowl consideration. Before his contract problem, Gruber had played for 4,850 consecutive snaps, not missing a single play for the five years he had been in the league. Center Tony Mayberry has a 48-game streak going and versatile right tackle Scott Dill started every game last season. Dill also played left tackle and left guard, starting five straight games at one stretch never in the same spot as the week before. The Bucs



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signed right tackle Tim Irwin from the Vikings. They drafted tackle Pete Pierson and center Jim Pyne to compete for jobs and re-signed right guard Ian Beckles. They would like former first-round pick Charles McRae to beat out left guard Bruce Reimers or to win a job somewhere. Rob Taylor is a veteran tackle.

Middle linebacker Hardy Nickerson arrived from Pittsburgh last year and tried to teach the Bucs how to play defense. He won all kinds of accolades and awards and made an aston-

DAN STRYZINSKI

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING-Husted, 75 points on 27 extra points and 16

field goals...13th RUSHING—Cobb, 658 yards on 221 carries, 3.0 avg., 3 TDs...11th

PASSING-Erickson, 233 of 457 attempts for 3,054

yards and 18 TDs. . . 12th RECEIVING-Hawkins, 62 receptions for 933 yards,

15.0 avg., 5 TDs . 12th INTERCEPTIONS-King, 3 for 29 yards, 9.7 aver-

T5th PUNTING-Stryzinski, 93 punts, 40.6 avg., longest 57

PUNT RETURNS-Anderson, 17 for 113 yards, 6.6 aver-

age...unranked KICKOFF RETURNS-Wilson, 23 for 454 yards, 19.7 average ... 12th

SACKS-Seals, 8.5 sacks...T8th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 CINCINNATI (N) 13 At Seattle (N) At Miami (N) NV IFTS (

1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	At Chicago	17-47
	11	INDIANAPOLIS	
	18	NEW ORLEANS	
	25	At Green Bay	10-13
October	2	DETROIT	27-10
	9	At Atlanta	31-24
	16	OPEN DATE:	
	23	At San Francisco	21-45
	30	MINNESOTA	23-10
November	6		13-10
	13		0-23
	20	At Seattle	
	27	At Minnesota	0-15
December	4	WASHINGTON	17-23
	11	I A DALLO	
	18	At Washington	
	24	GREEN BAY	14-27

ishing 124 tackles. But the Bucs still finished 22nd on defense in a division where nobody else finished lower than sixth and they drafted only one defensive player, linebacker Bernard Carter in the fifth round. They hope Demetrious DuBose is ready to play at outside linebacker with Lonnie Marts (Chiefs). The future of Broderick Thomas is in doubt. Darrick Brownlow and Ed Brady are backups.

The Bucs lost end Ray Seals, their leading sacker (8), to Pittsburgh this year. Eric Curry had five sacks in his first 10 games before a knee injury ended his rookie season. Teamed with young tackles Santana Dotson and Mark Wheeler, Curry forms the nucleus of a promising front, but replacing Seals with Shawn Price or Chidi Ahanotu will be difficult.

The Bucs traded for Dallas's Thomas Everett but lost free-agent cornerback Ricky Reynolds (Patriots), leaving them in a bind in the secondary. Everett joins Marty Carter at the safety spots with Martin Mayhew moving to





left corner and Milton Mack and ex-Colt Tony Stargel! vying for the job on the right corner. The Bucs play a 4-2-5 alignment with Barney Bussey as the rover. John Lynch could help. Rogerick Green is a fast backup and Roger Jones a nickel corner. Tony Covington is a reserve safety.

Dan Stryzinski is the punter and Michael Husted capped a good rookie year with a 57yard field goal. Turner looks like the kick- and punt-return man.

BUCCANEERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pas	ht	wt	age	coilege
73	Adams, Theo	OL	6-4	300	28	Hawaii
72	Ahanotu. Chidi	DL	6-2	280	24	California
2	Allison, Joé	PK	6-0	185	23	Memphis St.
44	Anderson, Darren	CB	5-10	180	25	Toledo
86	Armstrong, Tyji	TE	6-4	250	24	Mississippi
62	Beckles, lan	G	6-1	295	27	Indiana
53	Brady, Ed	LB	6-2	235	32	Illinois
55	Brownlow, Darrick	LB	6-0	240	26	Illinois
28	Buckley, Curtis	DB	6-0	185	24	East Texas
27	Bussey Barney	S	6-0	210	32	S.C. State
23	Carter. Marty	_ S	6-1	200	25	Middle Tenn. St.
89	Collins, Shawn	WR	6-2	205	27	N. Arizona
88	Copeland, Horace		6-2	195	23	Miami
25	Covington Tony	S	5-11	195	27	Virginia
68	Crisman, Joel	G	6-5	290	23	USC
75	Curry. Eric	DE	6-5	270	24	Alabama
1	Davis, Tyree	.WR	5-9	165	24	Central Arkansas
80	Dawsey, Lawrence	WB	6-0	195	27	Florida St.
76	Dill, Scott.	OL	6-5	290	28	Memphis St.
71	Dotson, Santana.,	DL	6-5	270	25	Baylor
93	DuBase, Demetrius	LB	6-1	240	23	Notre Dame
7	Erickson, Craig	. QB	6-2	205	25	Miami
22	Everett, Thomas		5-9	185	30	Baylor

95	Hill, TonyDE	6-6	255	26	UT-Chattanoog
16	Holstein, ScottP	6-5	210	23	LSU
90	Hunter, Jeff DE	6-4	290	28	Albany St.
5	Husted, MichaelK	6-0	190	24	Virginia
78	Irwin, TimT	6-7	300	36	Tennessee
24	Jones, Roger CB	5-9	175	25	Tennessee St.
41	King, JoeS	6-2	195	26	Oklahoma St.
49	Kronenberg BobC	6-3	275	23	St. Cloud St.
79	Love, Sean	6-3	290	26	Penn St.
47	Lynch, JohnS	6-2	220	23	Stanford
21	Mack, Milton CB	5-11	195	31	Alcorn St.
97	Marts. LonnieLB	6-1	230	26	Tulane
61	Mayberry, TonyC	6-4	290	27	Wake Forest
35	Mayhew, Martin CB	5-8	175	29	Florida St.
33	McDowell, Anthony FB	5-11	235	26	Texas Tech

...S 6-0 195 32 CB 5-10 185 25

6-5 290 29 Wisconsin

6-1 230 6-2 270 6-1 255

DL

FB

Kansas St

California

Michigan St.

24 Texas 26 Califor 23 Clems

25

Pittsburgh

California

Indiana

Gray, Jerry Green, Rogerick

Gruber, Paul.

Hadnot, Butch Hall, Rhett.

Harris, Rudy

Hawkins, Courtney ..

McRae, Charles...

Moore, Dave Nickerson, Hardy.

40 91

Paul, Markus 36 92 66 31 64 Syracuse 6-5 260 6-7 300 Price, Shawn DL 24 Pacific 34 Iowa S G Reimers, Bruce. Iowa St. Royster, Mazio. 200 G 6-2 280 26 Notre Dame 48 17 6-3 240 6-1 200 22 22 Ohio St Small, Eddie. WR Mississippi Stargell, Tony. DB 5-11

..LB

6-7

6-2 245 6-2 230

4 67 6-1 195 29 6-3 290 27 Stryzinski, Dan OL Miami Sullivan, Mike. Thomas, Broderick Nebraska 6-1 170 6-6 300 .WR 24 27 Thomas, Lamar. Trumbull, Rick. Missouri Turner, Vernon Vlasic, Mark Carson-Newman QB QB 6-3 205 31 6-1 200 26 Iowa Florida St Weldon, Casey.

30 13 11 77 54 Wheeler, Mark. 6-3 230 34 6-2 295 24 Williams, Jimmy LB Nebraska Wilson, Bernard Tennessee St. .DL Wilson, Charles. WR 5-10 185 Memphis St. DL 6-4 295 32 Syraguse RB 5-10 205 26 Ohio St. Winter, Blaise. Workman, Vince

DRAFTEES rd. name pos ht wt college .QB 6-3 228 Fresno State RB 5-11 211 Florida 1 Diller Trent Rhett, Errict. TE 6-6 260 Louisiana State
0T 6-5 279 Washington
LB 6-3 248 East Carolina Bishop, Harold Pierson Pete. Carter, Bernard.

1993 NFL **FINAL STANDINGS**

NATIONAL **FOOTBALL CONFERENCE**

Control Divinion					
Washington4	12	0	.250	230	345
Phoenix7					
Philadelphia8			.500		
New York11			.688		
Dallas12	4	0	.750	376	229
Eastern Division W			Pol		

Central Division10 6 0 .625 298 Detroit 0 .563 277 290 Minnesota9 Green Bay9 7 0 .563 340 282 9 0 .438 234 230 Chicago. .5 11 0 .313 237 376 Tampa Bay.....

Western Division

San Francisco10	6	0	625	473	295	
New Orleans8	8	0	.500	317	343	
Atlanta6	10	0	.375	316	385	
Los Angeles5	11	0	.313	221	367	

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo12	4	0	750	329	242
Miami9	7	0	.563	349	351
			.500		
New England5	11	0	.313	238	286
Indianapolis4	12	0	.250	189	378

Central Division

Houston12	4	0	.750	368	238
Pittsburgh9	7	0	.563	308	281
Cleveland7	9	0	.438	304	307
Cincinnati3	13	0	.188	187	319

Western Division

Kansas City11	5.	0	.688	328	291
Los Angeles10	6	0	.625	306	326
Denver9	7	0	563	373	284
San Diego8	8	0	500	322	290
Seattle6	1.0	0	.375	280	314

FIRST ROUND GAMES

Green Bay 28, Detroit 24 New York 17, Minnesota 10 Kansas City 27, Pittsburgh 24 (OT) Los Angeles 42, Denver 24

SECOND ROUND GAMES

San Francisco 44, New York 3 Dallas 27, Green Bay 17 Buffalo 29, Los Angeles 23 Kansas City 28, Houston 20

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dallas 38, San Francisco 21 Buffalo 30, Kansas City 13

SUPER BOWL XXVIII

Dallas 30, Buffalo 13

NFC WILD CARD GAME

	At Pontiac, MI, January 8,	1994
Green Bay	7147	-28
Detroit	77	-24

Scoring

Detroit: FG Hanson 47, 15:00 1st Green Bay: Sharpe 12 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 7:04 2nd

Detroit: Perriman 1 pass from Kramer (Hanson kick), 12:56 2nd

Detroit: Jenkins 15 interception return (Hanson kick), 6:40 3rd

Green Bay: Sharpe 28 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 10:25 3rd

Green Bay: Teague 101 interception return (Jacke kick), 13:20 3rd

Detroit: D. Moore 5 run (Hanson kick), 6:33 4th Green Bay: Sharpe, 40 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 14:05 4th

Attendance: 68, 479

Team Statistics

	Green Bay	Detroit
Points	28	24
Rushing yards	89	175
Passing yards	204	235
Return yards		
Sacked-yards lost.	0-0	4-13
Punts	4-40	3-48
Third downs	4-10	6-11
Fourth downs	0-0	0-1
Time of possession	24:26	35:34

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Green Bay, Thompson 12-41, E. Bennett 9-30, Favre 4-18; Detroit, Sanders 27-169, D. Moore 1-5, Kramer 1-1 Passing: Green Bay, Favre 15-26-1-204; Detroit, Kramer 22-31-2-248 Receiving: Green Bay, Sharpe 5-101, West 3-40, Thompson 3-32, E. Bennett 2-21, Clayton 1-9, Brooks 1-1; Detroit, Perriman 10-150, D. Moore 4-14, Holman 3-31, Green 2-33, Sanders 2-0, H. Moore 1-20 Interceptions: Green Bay, Teague 1-101,

Buckley 1-0; Detroit, Jenkins 1-15 Sacks: Green Bay, White 2, T. Bennett 11/2, Holland 1/2

Missed Field Goals: None

AFC WILD CARD GAME

At Kansas City, MO, January 8, 1994 Pittsburgh.....7..10....7...0 —24 Kansas City7....0....3..14....3 -27

Pittsburgh: Cooper 10 pass from O'Donnell (Anderson kick), 6:15 1st

Kansas City: Birden 23 pass from Krieg (Lowery kick), 13:21 1st

Pittsburgh: FG Anderson 30, 5:26 2nd Pittsburgh: Mills 26 pass from O'Donnell (Anderson kick), 14:42 2nd

Kansas City: FG Lowery 23, 13:51 3rd Kansas City: Allen 2 run (Lowery kick), 6:02 4th

Pittsburgh: Green 22 pass from O'Donnell (Anderson kick), 10:49 4th Kansas City: Barnett 7 pass from Montana

(Lowery kick), 13:17 4th Kansas City: FG Lowery 32, 11:03 OT Attendance: 74, 515

Team Statistics

	Pittsburgh	Kansas City
Points	24	27
Rushing yards	97	125
Passing yards		
Return yards		
Sacked-yards lost.	3-10	4-23
Punts	7-38	6-45
Third downs		
Fourth downs		
Time of possession	134:58	36:05
Tillie of possession	111111111111111111111111111111111111111	

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Pittsburgh, L. Thompson 25-60, Hoge 6-27, Stone 3-11, O'Donnell 1-minus 1: Kansas City, Allen 21-67, Anders 5-27, Montana 4-13, McNair 2-9, Jones 1-9

Passing: Pittsburgh, O'Donnell 23-42-0-286; Kansas City, Montana 28-43-0-276, Krieg 1-1-0-23

Receiving: Pittsburgh, Graham 7-96, Mills 4-60, Hoge 3-43, Stone 3-36, L. Thompson 3-4, E. Green 2-37, Cooper 1-10; Kansas City, Cash 7-56, Birden 6-72, Allen 4-29, Anders 3-30, Barnett 3-30, Davis 2-47, Hayes 2-11, Hughes 1-15, McNair 1-9 Interceptions: None

Sacks: Pittsburgh, G. Williams 3, Lloyd 1; Kansas City, Smith 2, Bayless 1 Missed Field Goals: Kansas City, Lowery 43

NFC WILD CARD GAME

At East Rutherford, NJ, January 9,	1994
Minnesota00	-10
New York30140	-17

New York: FG Treadwell 26, 6:25 1st Minnesota: C. Carter 40 pass from McMahon (Reveiz kick), 13:07 2nd Minnesota: FG Reveiz 52, 14:58 2nd New York: Hampton 51 run (Treadwell kick), 2:54 3rd

New York: Hampton 2 run (Treadwell kick), 9.23

Attendance: 75,089

Team Statistics

	Minnesota	New York
Points	10	17
Rushing yards	79	176
Passing yards		
Return yards		
Sacked-yards lost.	3-11	0-0
Punts	8-38	7-32
Third downs	2-13	7-17
Fourth downs	0-2	1-1
Time of possession	24:37	35:23

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Minnesota, Graham 19-69, McMahon 1-5, A. Carter 1-4, Craig 1-1; New York, Hampton 33-161, Simms 4-14, Bunch 1-1, Jackson 1-1, Tillman 2-minus 1

Passing: Minnesota, McMahon 12-25-0-145, Salisbury 3-9-0-47; New York, Simms 17-26-

Receiving: Minnesota, C. Carter 4-83, Jordan 4-31, A. Carter 2-37, Graham 2-19, Reed 2-16. Ismail 1-6: New York, Hampton 6-24. Meggett 4-12, Calloway 2-30, Cross 2-11, M. Jackson 2-9, Pierce 1-8

Interceptions: None

Sacks: New York, Hamilton 2, Fox 1 Missed Field Goals: New York, Treadwell 34



AFC WILD CARD GAME

At Los A	ngeles, (CA, J	anuar	y 9,	1994
Denver	7	.14	0	3	-24
Los Angeles	14	7	14	7	-42

Scoring

Los Angeles: Horton 9 pass from Hostetler (Jaeger kick), 5:34 1st

Denver: Sharpe 23 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 8:48

Los Angeles: T. Brown 65 pass from Hostetler (Jaeger kick), 12:35 1st

Denver: R. Johnson 16 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 4:54 2nd

Los Angeles: Jett 54 pass from Hostetler (Jaeger kick), 7:32 2nd Denver: Russell 6 pass from Elway (Elam

kick), 14:28 2nd

Los Angeles: McCallum 26 run (Jaeger kick), 6:52 3rd

Los Angeles: McCallum 2 run (Jaeger kick), 10:33 3rd

Denver: FG Elam 33, 2:24 4th

Los Angeles: McCallum 1 run (Jaeger kick), 8:17 4th

Attendance: 65,314

Team Statistics

	Denver	Los Angeles
Points	24	42
Rushing yards	56	136
Passing yards	331	291
Return yards	123	56
Sacked-yards lost	1-5	2-3
Punts	4-34	4-43
Third downs	4-14	5-9
Fourth downs	2-4	0-0
Time of possession	31:09	28:51

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Denver, Delpino 9-32, Elway 5-23, Rivers 1-2, Maddox 1-1, Milburn 2-minus 2; Los Angeles, McCallum 13-81, Montgomery 15-50. Hostetler 4-5

Passing: Denver, Elway 29-47-1-302, Maddox 3-7-0-34; Los Angeles, Hostetler 13-19-0-

Receiving: Denver, Sharpe 13-156, Marshall 5-69, Milburn 5-8, Russell 2-31, Tillman 2-25, R. Johnson 2-19, K. Taylor 1-13, Rivers 1-8, Evans 1-7; Los Angeles Jett 3-111, Brown 3-86, Horton 3-45, Montgomery 3-29, Wright 1-23

Interceptions: Los Angeles, Dorn 1-1 Sacks: Denver, Fletcher 2; Los Angeles, A. Smith 1

Missed Field Goals: None

NEC SECOND BOUND GAME

At San Francisco, CA, January 15,	1994
New York00	-3
San Francisco9147	-44

Scoring

San Francisco: Watters 1 run (kick failed). 4:27 1st

San Francisco: FG Cofer 29, 10:07 1st San Francisco: Watters 1 run (Cofer kick), :02

San Francisco: Watters 2 run (Cofer kick), 10:57 2nd New York: FG Treadwell 25, 15:00 2nd

San Francisco: Watters 6 run (Cofer kick), 7:22 3rd

San Francisco: Watters 2 run (Cofer kick), 13:51 3rd

San Francisco: Logan 2 run (Cofer kick), 2:34

Attendance: 67,143

Team Statistics

Points	3.	44
Rushing yards	41.	178
Passing yards	153.	235
Return yards		60
Sacked-yards lost	4-27.	1-6
Punts		
Third downs	2-12.	5-11
Fourth downs		
Time of possession.		

New York San Francisco

Individual Statistics

Rushing: New York, Hampton 7-12, Brown 1-8, Tillman 4-8, Bunch 2-5, Meggett 2-5, Simms 2-3, M. Jackson 1-0; San Francisco, Watters 24-118, Logan 9-40, Young 3-17, Rathman 2-7, Lee 1-5, Rice 1-minus 9

Passing: New York, Simms 12-25-2-124, Brown 6-10-156, San Francisco.

Brown 6-10-1-56; San Francisco, Young 17-22-0-226, Bono 2-2-0-15

Receiving: New York, McCaffrey 5-59, Meggett 3-17, Cross 2-32, Calloway 2-24, M. Jackson 2-16, Hampton 2-11, Tillman 1-14, Pierce 1-7; San Francisco, Watters 5-46. Jones 4-39. Rice 3-43. Taylor 2-74. Rathman 2-16, Lee 2-15, Logan 1-8

Interceptions: San Francisco, Caldwell 1-13,

Davis 1-4, McDonald 1-4 Sacks: New York, Hamilton ½, McGhee ½; San Francisco, Stubblefield 2, T. Wilson 1, Washington 1/2, Walter 1/2

Missed Field Goals: None

AFC SECOND ROUND GAME

At Orchard Pa	rk, N	Y, Jar	nuary	15,	1994
Los Angeles	0	.17	6	0	-23
Buffalo	0	.13	9	7	-29

Scoring

Los Angeles: FG Jaeger 30, 1:13 2nd Buffalo: K. Davis 1 run (kick failed), 1:30 2nd Los Angeles: McCallum 1 run (Jaeger kick). 6:50 2nd

Los Angeles: McCallum 1 run (Jaeger kick), 13:03 2nd Buffalo: T. Thomas 8 run (Christie kick),

14:10 2nd

Buffalo: Brooks 25 pass from Kelly (kick failed), 11:37 3rd

Buffalo: FG Christie 29, 14:01 3rd Los Angeles: T. Brown 86 pass from Hostetler (kick failed), 14:30 3rd

Buffalo: Brooks 22 pass from Kelly (Christie kick), 2:55 4th Attendance: 61,923

Team Statistics

	Los Angeles	Buttalo
Points	23	29
	110	
Passing yards	215	280
Return yards	90	118
Sacked-yards lo	st2-15	3-7
Punts	6-37	3-36
Third downs	2-11	7-14
Fourth downs	1-1	0-1
Time of possess	sion32:57	27:03

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Los Angeles, McCallum 19-56, Hosteller 5-29, Montgomery 9-22, Bell 2-3; Buffalo T. Thomas 14-44, K. Davis 11-36, Kelly 5-minus 5

Passing: Los Angeles, Hostetler 14-20-0-230; Buffalo, Kelly 27-37-0-287

Receiving: Los Angeles, T. Brown 5-127, Montgomery 3-26, Horton 2-42, McCallum 1-15, Bell 1-2, Duff 1-5, Jett 1-3; Buffalo. Brooks 6-96, T. Thomas 6-48. Metzelaars 5-43, Reed 4-53, McKeller 3-21, K. Davis 1-16, Beebe 1-9, Gardner 1-1

Interceptions: None

Sacks: Los Angeles, M. Jones 1, A. Smith 1, Long 1; Buffalo B. Smith 2

Missed Field Goals: Los Angeles, Jaeger 47; Buffalo, Christie 43

NFC SECOND ROUND GAME

	At Irving, T	K, Jai	nuary	16	1994
Green Bay	3	0	7	7	-17
Dallas	Ö	17	7	3	-27

Scoring

Green Bay: FG Jacke 30, 11:40 1st Dallas: Harper 25 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 5:53 2nd

Dallas: FG Murray 41, 14:37 2nd Dallas: Novacek 6 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 14:55 2nd

Dallas: Irvin 19 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 9:05 3rd

Green Bay: Brooks 13 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 13:28 3rd

Dallas: FG Murray 38, 7:22 4th

Green Bay: Sharpe 29 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 14:38 4th

Attendance: 64,790

Team Statistics

4 6 CAN TANK DAY OF CO.	Green Bay	Dallas
Points	17	27
Rushing yards	31	97
Passing yards	327	284
Return yards	143	53
Sacked-yards lost	2-4	4-18
Punts	3-39	3-44
Third downs	6-14	6-13
Fourth downs	1-3	0-1
Time of possession		

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Green Bay, Thompson 7-28, E. Bennett 6-3; Dallas, E. Smith 13-60, Coleman 5-19, Johnston 3-12, Lassic 2-6, Aikman 3-0, Bates 1-0 Passing: Green Bay, Favre 28-45-2-331,

Dallas, Aikman 28-37-2-302

Receiving: Green Bay, E. Bennett 9-53, Sharpe 6-128, West 4-41, Thompson 3-54, Brooks 3-39, Ingram 2-9, Lewis 1-7; Dallas, Irvin 9-126, Novacek 6-59, Johnston 6-43, Harper 2-33, E. Smith 2-27, Coleman 2-6, Lassic 1-8

Interceptions: Green Bay, Butler 1-14, Buckley 1-0; Dallas, Woodson 1-5, Haley 1-0

Sacks: Green Bay, T. Bennett 1½, Paup 1, Butler 1, Brock ½; Dallas, Tolbert 1, Jeffcoat 1

Missed Field Goals: Green Bay, Jacke 49

AFC SECOND ROUND GAME

	At Houston,	TX.	Janu	iary	16,	1994
Kansas City	0		0	.7	21	-28
Houston	10		0	.0	10	-20

Scoring

Houston: FG Del Greco 49, 3:50 1st Houston: G. Brown 2 run (Del Greco kick), 13:01 1st

Kansas City: Cash 7 pass from Montana (Lowery kick), 4:41 3rd Houston: FG Del Greco 43, 5:23 4th

Kansas City: Birden 11 pass from Montana (Lowery kick), 6:22 4th

Kansas City: Davis 18 pass from Montana (Lowery kick), 7:16 4th Houston: Givins 7 pass from Moon (Del Greco

kick), 11:15 4th Kansas City: Allen 21 run (Lowery kick),

13:05 4th Attendance: 64,011

Team Statistics

17,000 = 000,000	Kansas City	Houston
Points		
Rushing yards		
Passing yards		
Return yards		
Sacked-yards los		
Punts	5-45	5-49

Third downs	6-12	7-15
Fourth downs	0-1	0-1
Time of possession	24.18	35:42

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Kansas City, Allen 14-74, Anders 1-0, Montana 1-minus 1, Krieg 2-minus 2; Houston, Moon 3-22, G. Brown 11-17 Passing: Kansas City, Montana 22-38-2-299, Krieg 0-0-0-0, Houston, Moon 32-43-1-306 Receiving: Kansas City, Birden 6-60, Davis 5-96, Cash 4-80, Barnett 2-24, McNair 2-9 Allen 1-12, Hayes 1-9, F. Jones 1-9, Houston, Jeffires 9-88, Givins 7-63, Wellman 6-80, Duncan 6-49, G. Brown 4-26 Interceptions: Kansas City, Mincy 1-12; Houston, Hoage 1-0, Jackson 1-14 Sacks: Kansas City, B. Thompson 2, Thomas 2. Phillips 2, A. Lewis 2, Smith 1; Houston, Lathon 1, Fuller 1

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Missed Field Goals: None

	At Irving, TX, January 23, 199	4
San Francisco.	77 -2	1
Dallas	773 -38	8

Scoring

Dallas: E. Smith 5 run (Murray kick), 6:19 1st San Francisco: Rathman 7 pass from Young (Cofer kick), :05 2nd

Dallas: Johnston 4 run (Murray kick), 5:12 2nd Dallas: E. Smith 11 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 8:56 2nd

Dallas: Novacek 19 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 14:02 2nd

San Francisco: Watters 4 run (Cofer kick). 9:13 3rd

Dallas: Harper 42 pass from Kosar (Murray kick), 12:36 3rd

Dallas: FG Murray 50, 5:08 4th San Francisco: Young 1 run (Cofer kick), 10:54 4th

Attendance: 64,902

Team Statistics

Sani	Francisco	Dallas
Points	21	38
Rushing yards	84	124
Passing yards	275	253
Return yards	95	49
Sacked-yards lost		
Punts	4-46	4-41
Third downs	5-15	8-13
Fourth downs	1-2	0-0
Time of possession	26:27	33:33

Individual Statistics

Rushing: San Francisco, Young 7-38, Watters 12-37, Rathman 2-9; Dallas, E. Smith 23-88, Aikman 3-25, Johnston 4-13, Lassic 1-1, Kosar 2-minus 3

Passing: San Francisco, Young 27-45-1-287; Dallas, Aikman 14-18-0-177, Kosar 5-9-0-83, Harper 0-1-0-0

Receiving: San Francisco, Watters 7-33, Rice 6-83, Taylor 3-61, J. Williams 3-44, B. Jones 3-26, Logan 3-21, Turner 1-12, Rathman 1-7; Dallas, E. Smith 7-85, Harper 4-78, Novacek 4-57, Irvin 2-23, Johnston 2-17 Interceptions: Dallas, Everett 1-14

Sacks: San Francisco, Griffin 1, Brown 1; Dallas, Haley 1, Jeffcoat 1, Tolbert 1, Maryland 1

Missed Field Goals: None

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

	At O	rchard	I Park	(, N)	, Jai	nuary	23,	1994
Kansas	City			6	0	7	0	-13
Buffalo				.7	13	0	.10	-30

Scoring

8:11 1st Kansas City: FG Lowery 31, 12:46 1st Kansas City: FG Lowery 31, 14.21 1st Buffalo: T. Thomas 3 run (Christie kick). 2:58 2nd

Buffalo: T. Thomas 12 run (Christie kick),

Buffalo: FG Christie 23, 7:56 2nd Buffalo: FG Christie 25, 12:59 2nd Kansas City: Allen 1 run (Lowery kick), 11:54 3rd

Buffalo: FG Christie 18, 3:05 4th Buffalo: T. Thomas 3 run (Christie kick), 9:30 4th

Attendance: 76,642

Team Statistics

	Kansas City	Buffalo
Points	13	30
Rushing yards	52	229
Passing yards		
Return yards		
Sacked-yards lost.	4-37	0-0
Punts	6-41	4-33
Third downs	7-17	5-12
Fourth downs	1-1	0-0
Time of possession	129:20	30:40

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Kansas City, Allen 18-50, Anders 2-1, Montana 1-1; Buffalo T. Thomas 33-186, K. Davis 10-32, Reed 1-8, Kelly 2-3 Passing: Kansas City, Montana 9-23-1-125, Krieg 16-29-1-198; Buffalo, Kelly 17-27-0-

Receiving: Kansas City, Cash 6-87, W. Davis 5-57, Birden 4-60, Allen 2-36, McNair 2-33, Haves 2-14, E. Thompson 1-12, Hughes 1-11, Anders 1-7, Szott 1-6; Buffalo, Reed 4-49, Brooks 4-34, Metzelaars 4-29, Thomas 2-22, Beebe 2-19, McKeller 1-7 Interceptions: Buffalo, Jones 1-15, Williams

Sacks: Buffalo, Smith 1, Wright 1, Hansen 1, Talley 1

Missed Field Goals: None

SUPER BOWL XXVIII

At Atlanta, GA, January 30,	1994
Dallas	-30
Buffalo	-13

Scoring

1-0

Dallas: FG Murray 41, 2:19 1st Buffalo: FG Christie 54, 4:41 1st Dallas: FG Murray 24, 11:05 1st Buffalo: T. Thomas 4 run (Christie kick), 2:34 2nd

Buffalo: FG Christie 28, 15:00 2nd Dallas: J. Washington 46 fumble return

(Murray kick), :55 3rd Dallas: E. Smith 15 run (Murray kick), 6:18 3rd Dallas: E. Smith 1 run (Murray kick), 5:10 4th Dallas: FG Murray 20, 12:10 4th

Attendance: 72, 817

Team Statistics

Tourn Otationics		
	Dallas	Buffalo
Points	30	13
Rushing yards	137	87
Passing yards	204	227
Return yards	89	190
Sacked-yards lost	2-3	3-33
Punts	4-44	5-38
Third downs	5-13	5-17
Fourth downs	1-1	2-3
Time of possession	34:29	25:31

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Dallas, E. Smith 30-132, K. Williams 1-6, Aikman 1-3, Johnston 1-0, Kosar 1-minus 1, Coleman 1-minus 1; Buffalo: K. Davis 9-38, T. Thomas 16-37, Kelly 2-12 Passing: Dallas, Aikman 19-27-1-207; Kelly 31-50-1-260

Receiving: Dallas, Irvin 5-66, Novacek 5-26, Smith 4-26, Harper 3-75, Johnston 2-14; Buffalo, Brooks 7-63, T. Thomas 7-52, Reed 6-75, Beebe 6-60, K. Davis 3-minus 5, Metzelaars 1-8, McKeller 1-7

Interceptions: Dallas, J. Washington 1-12; Buffalo, Odomes 1-41 Sacks: Dallas, Tolbert 1/2, Casillas 1/2, Haley 1/2,

Jeffcoat 11/2; Buffalo, Wright 2 Missed Field Goals: None

PAST SUPER BOWLS

Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10 Green Bay 33, Oakland 14 1967. 1968. New York Jets 16, Baltimore 7 Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7 1970. Baltimore 16, Dallas 13 1971. Dallas 24, Miami 3 1972. Miami 14, Washington 7 1973. 1974

Miami 14, Washington 7
Miami 24, Minnesota 7
Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6
Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17
Oakland 32, Minnesota 14 1975 1976. 1977.

Dallas 27, Denver 10 1978. 1979. Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31 1980. Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles Rams 19

1981. Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10 San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21

1983 Washington 27, Miami 17

Los Angeles Raiders 38, Washington 9 1984. 1985. San Francisco 38, Miami 16

Chicago 46, New England 10 1986 1987. . . New York Giants 39, Denver 20 1988. . . Washington 42, Denver 10

San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16 1989 1990. . . San Francisco 55, Denver 10

1991... New York Giants 20, Buffalo 19 1992. Washington 37, Buffalo 24

1993. . . Dallas 52, Buffalo 17 1994. . . Dallas 30, Buffalo 13

SUPER BOWL MVPs

1967. . . Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers 1968. . . Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers Joe Namath, New York Jets 1969. 1970. . . Len Dawson, Kansas City Chiefs

Chuck Howley, Dallas Cowboys
Roger Staubach, Dallas Cowboys 1971. 1972

Jake Scott, Miami Dolphins
Larry Csonka, Miami Dolphins
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers 1973. 1974.

1975 1976. Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh Steelers 1977. Fred Biletnikoff, Oakland Raiders

1978. Randy White and Harvey Martin, Dallas Cowboys

Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers 1980. . . Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers 1981. Jim Plunkett, Oakland Raiders

1982 . Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers 1983. John Riggins, Washington Redskins

. Marcus Allen, Los Angeles Raiders 1984. Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers Richard Dent, Chicago Bears 1985. 1986. .

1987 1988

Phil Simms, New York Giants
Doug Williams, Washington Redskins
Jerry Rice, San Francisco 49ers
Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers 1989 1990 1991

Ottis Anderson, New York Giants Mark Rypien, Washington Redskins Troy Aikman, Dallas Cowboys 1992. 1993. .

1994. . . Emmitt Smith, Dallas Cowboys

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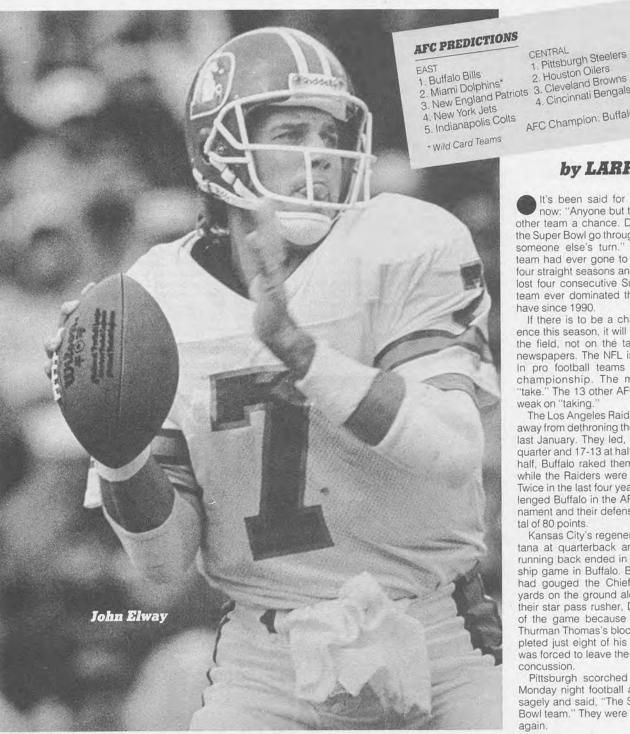
AMERICAN FOOTBALL The AFC title is up for grabs, CONFERENCE

but can anyone take it from Buffalo?

1. Pittsburgh Steelers

2. Houston Oilers

CENTRAL



5. San Diego Chargers 4. Cincinnati Bengals AFC Champion: Buffalo Bills

by LARRY FELSER

BUFFALO NEWS

1. Los Angeles Raiders

4. Seattle Seahawks

2. Denver Broncos* 3. Kansas City Chiefs*

It's been said for almost three years now: "Anyone but the Bills. Give some other team a chance. Don't let the road to the Super Bowl go through Buffalo again. It's someone else's turn." Before Buffalo, no team had ever gone to the Super Bowl for four straight seasons and no team had ever lost four consecutive Super Bowls. But no team ever dominated the AFC as the Bills have since 1990.

If there is to be a change in the conference this season, it will have to be done on the field, not on the talk shows or in the newspapers. The NFL is not a democracy. In pro football teams are not "given" a championship. The mandatory verb is "take." The 13 other AFC teams have been weak on "taking.

The Los Angeles Raiders were 30 minutes away from dethroning the Bills in the playoffs last January. They led, 17-6, in the second quarter and 17-13 at half time. In the second half, Buffalo raked them for 18 first downs while the Raiders were managing just one. Twice in the last four years the Raiders challenged Buffalo in the AFC postseason tournament and their defense surrendered a total of 80 points.

Kansas City's regeneration with Joe Montana at quarterback and Marcus Allen at running back ended in the AFC championship game in Buffalo. By half time the Bills had gouged the Chiefs' defense for 159 vards on the ground alone and had driven their star pass rusher, Derrick Thomas, out of the game because he couldn't handle Thurman Thomas's blockers. Montana completed just eight of his first 22 passes and was forced to leave the game because of a concussion.

Pittsburgh scorched the Bills, 24-0, on Monday night football and people nodded sagely and said, "The Steelers are a Super Bowl team." They were that night, but never

For the last four years, some NFL people insisted Houston had better talent than Buffalo, yet something always happens to the Oilers in the playoffs. If it isn't John Elway leading a last-minute rally, it's a miracle comeback by a Buffalo wild-card team after the Oilers held a 32-point lead in the third quarter. Last season Houston was the hottest team in the NFL going into the playoffs and then turned flabby against Kansas City

right in the Astrodome.

The Dolphins? They haven't been able to beat Buffalo in Miami. It's the Bills' winter home. Since Joe Robbie Stadium opened, the Bills have won seven of the eight games played there. In 1992 Miami had the homefield advantage against Buffalo in the AFC championship game and never showed up. Mary Levy's career coaching record against Don Shula is 14-5. Last season the Dolphins were the popular choice to win the AFC after they signed a flock of free agents. As the stretch run began, they were 9-2, the best record in football. They never won again. The five-game flop included a critical game against Buffalo in Joe Robbie Stadium. The Bills won, 47-34.

For all their winning (57 victories in the '90s) the Bills have this little problem at the end of January. Considering that and the absence of a more worthy challenger, it's no wonder the AFC hasn't won a Super Bowl in 11 seasons. This year the Bills have been dented, if not battered, by free agency. More significantly, they now carry even heavier baggage from their Super Bowl disasters. There is a strong feeling around the NFL that they guit in the third guarter of Super Bowl XXVIII after Dallas's James Washington picked up Thomas's fumble and scored with it to tie the game, 13-13. Yet if their psychological damage is healed sufficiently, the Bills still appear to be a stronger team than any of the pretenders.

Denver is the dark horse. "We were the most improved team in the league on defense last year," said coach Wade Phillips, "and we should be even better." The Broncos signed Anthony Miller, San Diego's great receiver, then added more speed by trading for Mike Pritchard of Atlanta. The Broncos also dealt for San Francisco nose tackle Ted Washington and Philadelphia

cornerback Ben Smith.

The spoiler is New England, with a more powerful ground game, a year's experience for quarterback Drew Bledsoe, and the impetus of a roaring finish to last season

Changes in the AFC were less than wholesale. Pete Caroll of the Jets is the only new coach. The NFC did most of the quarterback

1994 ALL-AFC TEAM OFFENSE QB John Elway, Denver RB Thurman Thomas, Buffalo RB Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis WR Tim Brown, Los Angeles WR Anthony Miller, Denver TE Shannon Sharpe, Denver OT Will Wolford, Indianapolis Jim Kelly or Howard Ballard, Seattle

shifting. The only new starters in the AFC are Jim Harbaugh for Jeff George in Indianapolis and Cody Carlson for Warren Moon in Houston. More significant changes may be the departure of Buddy Ryan in Houston and the coming of Bill Tobin as Indy's general manager.

Predictions for 1994 individual honors:

- · Passing: John Elway, Denver
- · Rushing: Marion Butts, New England
- Receiving: Rob Moore, New York
- MVP Offense: Jeff Hostetler, Los Angeles
- MVP Defense: Junior Seau, San Diego
- · Offensive Rookie of the Year:
- · Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis
- · Defensive Rookie of the Year:
- · Dan Wilkinson, Cincinnati

og Dwayne White, New York OG Will Shields, Kansas City

c Dermontti Dawson, Pittsburgh PK Gary Anderson, Pittsburgh KR Eric Metcalf, Cleveland

DEFENSE

DE Bruce Smith, Buffalo

DE Jeff Lageman, New York

DT Cortez Kennedy, Seattle

DT Michael Dean Perry, Cleveland LB Junior Seau, San Diego

LB Greg Lloyd, Pittsburgh

LB Mo Lewis, New York CB Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh

CB Nate Odomes, Seattle

ss Henry Jones, Buffalo

FS Eugene Robinson, Seattle Rich Camarillo, Houston

AF Ceast

BUFFALO BILLS

The Bills have been diluted. They may not be able to pound it out as they did against Kansas City in the AFC championship game last season and against the Raiders in the second half of their playoff game, but they still have enough stars and developing studs to withstand challenges in a conference that remains mediocre. What other AFC teams can field talent such as Jim Kelly, Thurman Thomas, Andre Reed, Bruce Smith, Cornelius Bennett, Darryl Talley, Jeff Wright, and Henry Jones?

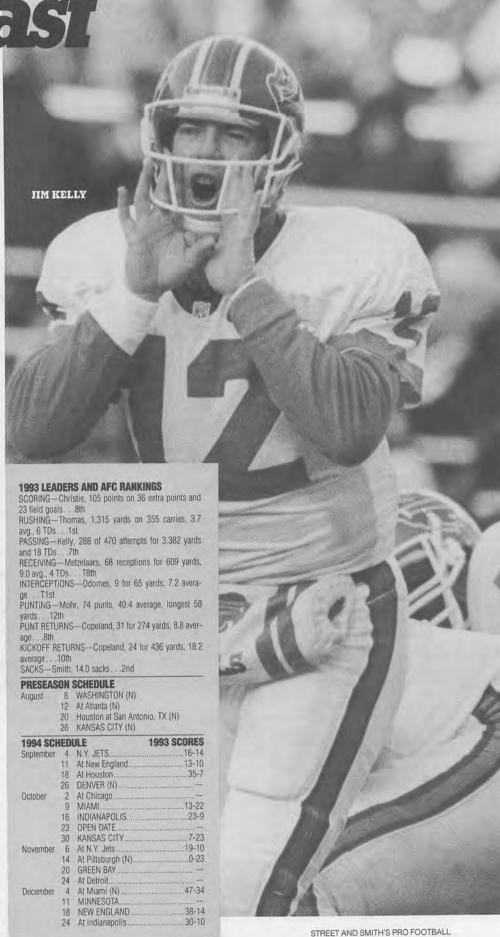
"We are not going to break up the Buffalo Bills," said coach Marv Levy in the wake of a fourth straight Super Bowl debacle. "That would be overreaction." True to Levy's word, the Bills spent the winter caring for their own, re-signing the bulk of their important players. They didn't even dabble in the free-agent market, which some consider a mistake. But their free-agent losses didn't approach those of the Cowboys, their Super Bowl conquerors.

Kelly is 34, but the NFL is a league where mature quarterbacks play in January. He was intercepted only once in 114 passes during the playoffs. The no-huddle offense was deemphasized in 1993, but Kelly ended up with just about as many yards as he passed for in '92. Buffalo isn't exactly a control passing team now, but the approach is more conservative. Kelly's completion percentage went up and his interception ratio went down. The most important aspect of Kelly's game is that he knows the way to the end zone. Immediately after Jeff Hostetler connected with Tim Brown on the 86-yard pass play that put the Raiders ahead in their playoff match, Kelly drove his team 71 yards for the winning score, his 22-yard touchdown pass to Bill Brooks.

Thomas will go down as one of the all-time Super Bowl goats, and there were rumors during the winter that the Bills would trade him. But the hierarchy is patient. It remembers that seven days before his disintegration in the Super Bowl, he ran for 186 yards and scored three touchdowns, destroying Kansas City in the AFC title game. He scored five touchdowns in the postseason. Thurman easily led the AFC with 1,315 yards, the third-highest total of his career. He led the NFL in all-purpose yardage for the fifth time and he just urned 28 years old. Behind Thomas is one of the league's most explosive backups, Kenneth Davis, who averaged 3.6 yards.

Nevertheless, the Bills are nowhere near the offense they were in the racehorse days of the no-huddle attack. Their scoring was down by more than a field goal per game last year, but overall there was a huge drop (eight points per game) from 1991, Ted Marchibroda's last year as offensive coordinator.

Even if the Bills continue their conservatism under offensive coordinator Tom Bresnahan, they still have to find some speed to stretch the field, something they haven't had on a consistent basis since James Lofton left. Don Beebe is their only veteran speed receiver, but he's too erratic. The leading target last season was Pete Metzelaars, who had a career year with 68 catches. The receptions averaged just nine yards, however, and at 34



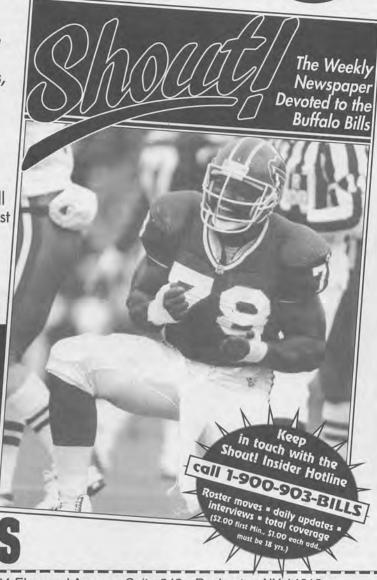
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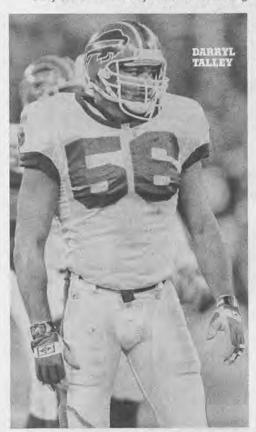
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he's not going to get faster. Reed averaged 16.4 yards on his 52 catches and went to the Pro Bowl again, but Kelly doesn't use him as the go-to guy as often as he once did. Brooks, a possession receiver, was a valuable free-agent signee with 60 catches.

The major worry is the offensive line. Only two starters remain from the 1992 team. When left tackle Will Wolford defected to Indianapolis a year ago, the development of second-year man John Fina was accelerated, and he was more than adequate as the replacement. John Davis came back from knee surgery to claim left guard. Now the Bills have run out of experienced replacements. When Howard Ballard signed with Seattle, the unseasoned Jerry Crafts was the only candidate remaining



on the roster. Crafts' principal asset is enormous physical presense, so he may be moved inside to guard with Glenn Parker sliding over to play right tackle. The sole constant is veteran center Kent Hull. An injury to any starter could produce disaster.

The most shocking part of the second-half collapse in the Super Bowl wasn't Thomas's fumble but the way Dallas crushed the Buffalo defense on its next possession. The Cowboys had their way with the Bills' relatively small line, continually running Emmitt Smith over pancaked defenders. There is a philosophical debate among the Bills' coaches over whether to play more four-man fronts in 1994. The ironic part is that the size to do it is available. While their smaller teammates were being overpowered, 296-pound John Parrella and 287-pound James Patton, defensive tackles drafted in the second round the previous two years, watched in civilian clothes. Levy, a disciple of the late George Allen, doesn't like to play rookies. He stubbornly stuck to that policy even when Parrella had an impressive exhibition season. Now Parrella, a player whose inner motor does not have a "stop" switch, has to be played.

Smith, the all-pro defensive end, enjoyed one of his finest seasons. The addition of some heft among his colleagues could help him even further. Smith's three sacks in the playoffs gave him the career lead among active pass rushers. A fanatic about conditioning, he remains the foundation of the defense. Wright is one of the league's better nose tackles, but he was worn down late in the year. End Phil Hansen puts heat on the passer, but he can be muscled by a strong running team.

The reordered linebacking corps, which put the emphasis on speed rather than muscle, played well for the most part. When Bennett was moved back outside, the expectation was that he would attack passers more effectively. He had just five sacks, although that was second on the team to Smith's 14. The most pleasant surprises were the development of Marcus Patton on the inside and the success Talley had in maintaining his youth. The other new inside linebacker, Mark Maddox. used his quickness to make a number of big plays, but he was overpowered in some games.

The secondary will have at least two new starters. Thomas Smith, last year's first-round draftee, will replace Odomes at right corner. He started one game and made some big plays in a reserve role. Veteran free safety Mark Kelso was released. Tough Matt Darby and Jeff Burris, the No. 1 draft choice who was Notre Dame's MVP in 1993, will compete for



Kelso's spot. Darby is better suited for strong safety, so there is another scenario where Jones could move from strong to free safety. Mickey Washington won the left corner late in the season and played well.

The Bills addressed several of their problem areas in the draft: the secondary, tight end, wide-receiver speed, and depth at linebacker and in the offensive line. Burris will help somewhere. He's so versatile that the Irish used him as a running back in goal-line situations and he scored six career touchdowns. Free-agent compensation resulted in three second-round selections, used for wide receiver Bucky Brooks, the North Carolina flyer, Florida State tight end Lonnie Johnson, and Colorado linebacker Sam Rogers, a big pass rusher. Corey Louchiey of South Carolina is a mammoth offensive tackle who may be a year away but could be pressed into service anyway. With speed needed so desperately at tight end, Johnson may get to play more than any of the newcomers. At FSU he was usually ignored by Charlie Ward because there were so many other targets. The Buffalo scouts remember his productive sophomore year and think he will have a good jump since the Seminoles use the Bills' system.

Steve Christie kicked the longest field goal in Super Bowl history (54 yards) and punter Chris Mohr was re-signed for serious money because he masters the tricky winds in Rich Stadium. Another major financial commitment was made to keep Steve Tasker, the special-teams' ace. He broke open the playoff game against the Raiders with a clutch kickoff return.

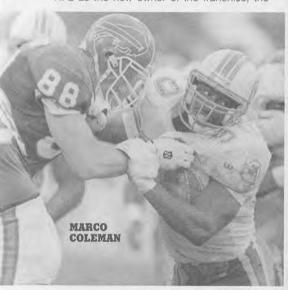
BILLS VETERAN ROSTER						
na.	name pos	ht	W	age	callege	
86	Awalt Rob TE	6-5	242	30	San Diego St:	
77	Barnett Oliver DE	6-3	292	28	Kentucky	
82	Beebe. DonWR	5-11	180	30	Chadron State	
97	Bennett Comelius LB	6-2	238	59	Alabama	
80	Brooks, Bill	6-0	189	30	Boston University	
96	Brown, MontyLB	6-0	228	24	Ferris State	
2	Christie, SteveK	6-0	185	27	William & Mary	
85	Copeland, Russell WR	6-0	200	23	Memphis State	
66	Crafts, Jerry OT	6-6	351	26	Louisville	
43	Darby, MaltS	6-1	200	26	UCLA	
65	Davis, John	5-4	310	29	Georgia Tech	
23	Davis, Kenneth	5-10	208	32	TCU	
62	Devlin, Mike	6-1	293	25	lowa	
85	Edwards, AlWR	5-8	173	27	NW Louisiana	
70	Fina, JohnOL	6-4	285	25	Arizona	
33	Fuller, Edgie RB	5.9	198	26	LSU	
35	Gardner, Carwell FB	6-2	244	28	Louisville	
50	Goganious, Keith LB	6-2	239	26	Penn State	
90	Hansen Phil DE	6-5	278	26	North Dakota St.	
52	Harvey Richard LB	6-1	242	28	Tulane	
36	Henderson, Jerome DB	5-10	189	25	Clemson	
67	Hull Kent	6-5	284	33	Mississippi St	
20	Jones, HenryS	5-11	197	27	Illinois	
30	Jourdain Yonel	5-11	204	23	So. Illinois	
12	Kelly, Jim QB	6-3	226	34	Miami	
68	Lacina, Corbin	6-4	297	24	Augustana (SD)	
81	Lamb, BradWR	5-10	177	27	Anderson	
63	Lingner, Adam C	6-4	268	34	Illinois	
73	Lodish, Mike NT	6-3	280		UCLA	
55	Maddox, MarkLB	6-1	233		Northern Michiga	
	McKeller, KerthTE	6-4	242		Jacksonville Stat	
84	Metzelaars, Pele. TE	6-7	254		Wabash	
88		6-5	215		Alabama	
	Mohr. Chris. P	6-5	305		Arizona	
74	Parker Glenn G/T Parrella John DL	6-3	296		Nebraska	
	Pation, James DL	6-3	287		Texas	
99	Patton, Marvous, LB		243		UCLA	
53			272		Georgia Tech	
94	Pike Mark DB	0.0	190		Kutztown	
83	Reed, AndreWR					
14	Reich, Frank 08		205		Maryland	
24	Schulz KurtS	B-1			E. Washington	
78	Smith Bruce DE	6-4			Virginia Tech	
28	Smith, Thomas CB		188		North Carolina	
56	Talley Danyl LB	6-4			West Virginia	
89	Tasker, SteveWR				Northwestern Oblahassa Clata	
34	Thomas, ThurmanRB				Oklahoma State	
21	Turner, NateRB	6-1			Nebraska	
25	Washington, Mickey. CB	5-9	191		Texas A&M	
91	Wright, JeffNT	6-3	274	31	Central Mo St.	

DRAFTEES						
rd.	name pos	ht	wt	college		
1	Burris, Jeff DB	5-11	194	Notre Dame		
2	Brooks, Bucky WR	5-11	186	North Carolina		
2	Johnson, Lonnie TE	6-3	239	Florida State		
2	Rogers SamLB	6-2	249	Colorado		
	Perry, Marlo LB		250	Jackson State		
	Louchiey, CoreyOT	6-7	309	South Carolina		
	Crocker, Sean DB	5-10	192	North Carolina		
	Ofodile, A.J. TE	6-7	260	Missouri		
	Abrams Anthony DE	6-3	298	Clark (GA)		
	Knax, Kevin WR		195	Florida State		
	Johnson Filmel DB		186	Illinois		

MIAMI DOLPHINS

How does a team with the best record in the NFL on Thanksgiving Day miss the playoffs? The Dolphins managed it by not winning a game for the rest of the season and now must deal with the psychological scars.

There is another psychological factor in the background as Miami attempts to heal. It has to do with the availability of Jimmy Johnson, the ex-coach of the Dallas Cowboys (and the Miami Hurricanes), who will reside on his boat in Biscayne Bay during his season of self-imposed exile. Johnson makes it plain that he would like to resume his coaching career in 1995, preferably somewhere in Florida. Don Shula is the winningest coach in NFL history, but he will turn 64 next January and his current contract will expire a short time later. The Dolphins were sold to Blockbuster Video tycoon Wayne Huizenga, and when Johnson and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones had their noisy split in April, the speculation began that Johnson might succeed Shula in Huizenga's vision of the team's future. Huizenga didn't help much when he issued a terse statement: "Don Shula is coach of the Dolphins." Since Huizenga hadn't been formally approved by the NFL as the new owner of the franchise, the



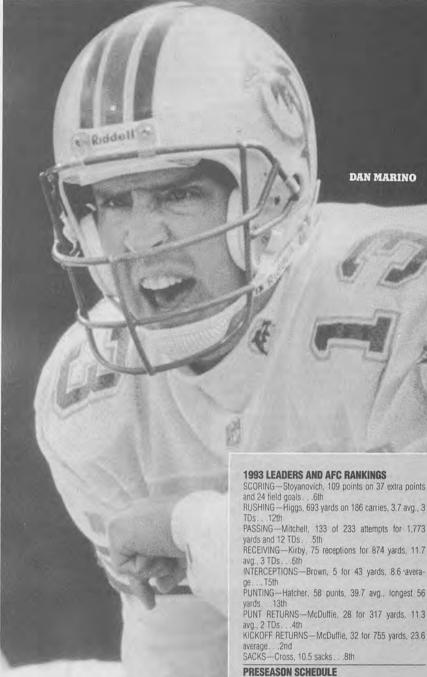
idea of beginning negotiations with Shula on a new contract could be sidestepped diplomatically. If a contract for Shula is not resolved by the start of the season, it could be a distraction for the Dolphins.

The obvious reason for the late-season collapse was the absence of stars such as quarterback Dan Marino, cornerback Troy Vincent, and linebacker John Offerdahl. But Marino injured his Achilles' tendon early in the year and Offerdahl was making just cameo appearances after the first month. There is some serious healing still to be done. The biggest worry is over Marino. He underwent additional surgery early in the spring to clean out the heel area so that the rehabilitation process could be eased, but that type of injury can be haunting for a 33-year-old football player. Vincent was arriving as one of the NFL's foremost cover corners when he blew out his knee. "It was major surgery," said Shula, who felt that Vincent's departure from the lineup was a big reason for the slump. Offerdahl considered retirement after last season. Even if he does come back, it seems obvious that his slam-

bang style has taken a physical toll and he is unlikely to play a complete season.

Then there is the unruly atmosphere on the sidelines. Bryan Cox, the dynamic linebacker, can be as disruptive to the Dolphins off the field as he is on their behalf on the field. He went out of control in a couple of games last season and it cost his team. He isn't the only one. Defensive end Marco Coleman can be an undisciplined player. And in a vital Monday night game in San Diego late in December, Irving Fryar caught a pass and made a superb run. Fryar thought he had made it into the end zone, but when the officials ruled him out of bounds on the 2-yard line, he had a tantrum that almost cost his team a penalty.

Marino has to get more out of Mark Ingram (44 catches for a 16.1-yard average) and Keith Jackson (39 for 15.7). Jackson disap-



July 30 At N.Y. Giants (N)

August 6 PITTSBURGH (N)

13 Green Bay at Milwaukee, WI. (N)

20 TAMPA BAY (N)

26 At Minnesota (N

	26	At Minnesota (N)	
1994 SCI	IED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	NEW ENGLAND	17-13
	11	Green Bay at Milwai	ukee, Wl
	18	N.Y. JETS	14-24
	25	At Minnesota	
October	2	At Cincinnati (N)	
	9	At Buffalo	22-13
	16	L.A. RAIDERS	
	23	OPEN DATE	
	30	At New England	27-33
November	6	INDIANAPOLIS	41-27
	13	CHICAGO	
	20	At Pittsburgh	20-21
	27	At N.Y. Jets	10-27
December	4	BUFFALO (N)	34-47
	12	KANSAS CITY (N)	
	18	At Indianapolis	24-20
	25	DETROIT (N)	

peared down the stretch. Fryar had a 1,000vard season on 64 catches. Last year's draft could produce a bigger punch. Running back Terry Kirby was the prize rookie with 75 catches plus some important heavy-duty running. O.J. McDuffie gave Shula the return lift he was looking for with a 23.6-yard average on kickoffs and 11.3 on punts with two returned for touchdowns. McDuffie figures more prominently as the third receiver now. Keith Byars, who caught 61 passes and blocked as nobly as he once did in Philadelphia, may be comfortable enough to take a firmer leadership role in his second season.

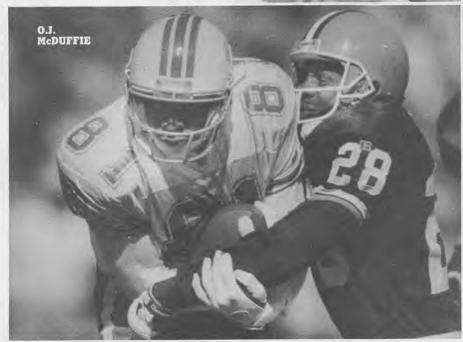
Shula was crushed when Scott Mitchell, the kid quarterback he so carefully developed, signed with Detroit as a free agent. With Marino's health a worry now, the backup position is essential, which is why Bernie Kosar was signed as a free agent. Kosar's skills have deteriorated, but he still has enough arm and certainly enough poise to get the Dolphins through a crisis.

The strength of the offensive line remains the left side, with Richmond Webb at tackle and Keith Sims at guard. Signing right tackle Ron Heller as a free agent turned out to be a solid move. Bert Weidner, once a defensive lineman, developed into a gritty right guard. When center Jeff Uhlenhake signed with New Orleans, Shula made a savvy move by obtaining Notre Dame's Tim Ruddy, a quick study, from Arizona. Byars is an important element of Marino's protection, but there isn't much blocking help from the tight end with Jackson in the lineup. Only three NFL teams gained fewer vards on the ground than Miami. It may not be much different in 1994. Only one rookie, Ruddy, is an offensive player. The top runner, Mark Higgs, ranked 12th in the AFC (693 vards). Kirby (390 vards) is more a banger than an breakaway threat.

In its last three losses, Miami gave up 125 points, a statistic that made their playoff talk a joke. It was no surprise that the emphasis in the draft was on defense. Miami's defensive statistics weren't much worse than Buffalo's. The difference is that the Bills surrendered a

lot of yardage but only 25 touchdowns. The Dolphins gave up big yardage and 43 TDs.

When the Dolphins use a four-man front, Offerdahl is the middle linebacker with Cox on the right side and John Grimsley on the left. Dwight Hollier and Cliff Odom should be in the scramble now, along with the rookies. There are plenty of openings in the line, too. After injuries struck the secondary. Miami needed better pressure on the passer and couldn't find it. The sack total, 29, was near the bottom of the league. Shula took a number of risks in the draft. The top pick was defensive tackle Tim Bowens, a huge, unpolished kid who played only nine games and started just seven for the University of Mississippi. He has a reputation for being out of shape and not working hard, but he also has size (6-4 and 325 pounds) and great skills. If the Dolphins can get him into playing shape, he could be the man they seek for the interior of their line. William Gaines of Florida is another big tackle with a questionable knee. The Dolphins also selected three linebackers: Aubrey Beavers



of Oklahoma, Ronnie Woolfork, who had a disappointing senior year at Colorado, and Brant Bover of Arizona.

Free agency created a major change in the secondary, where ex-Saint Gene Atkins and ex-Ram Michael Stewart provide more speed at the safeties. Opposing passing attacks should no longer be able to isolate on the safeties as they used to do against Louis Oliver and Jarvis Williams. If Vincent heals well, this should be an improved area. J.B. Brown is reliable at right corner.

Pete Stoyanovich, the place-kicker, was one of the few constants in the season-ending disaster. In the last four games, he went eightfor-nine. Jim Arnold, the long-time Detroit Lion, is the new punter. McDuffie finished second in the AFC in kickoff returns and fourth in punt returns.

DOLPHINS VETERAN ROSTER

pos ht wt age colle

... CB 5-8 178 29 Stephen F. Austin

32	Alexander, Bruce UB	0-0	1/8	29	Stephen F. Austin
6	Arnold, JimP	6-3	211	33	Vanderbilt
28	Atkins, Gene	5-11	200	30	Florida A&M
84	Baty GregTE	6-6	240	30	Stanford
66	Blake, Eddie G	6-3	315	26	Auburn
37	Brown, J.B CB	6-0		27	Maryland
54	Bullough, Chuck LB	6-1	238	25	Michigan State
41	Byars, KeithFB	6-1	256	31	Ohio State
90	Coleman, Marco DE	6-3		25	Georgia Tech
51	Cox, Bryan LB	6-4	242	26	Western Illinois
34	Craver, Aaron		220	26	Fresno State
91	Cross JeffDE	6-4	273	28	Missouri
17	DeBerg, Steve QB	6-3	220	40	San Jose State
65	Dellenbach, JeffOL	6-5	290	31	Wisconsin
74	Dennis, MarkT	6-6	296	29	Illinois
80	Fryar, IrvingWR	6-0		32	Nebraska
62	Gray, Chris OL	6-4	289	24	
42	Green, ChrisS	5-11	192	26	Illingis
59	Grimsley, John LB	6-2	236	32	Kentucky
		6-0	205	27	Miami
45	Harden, BobbyS	6-6	293	32	Penn State
73	Hetler, RonT			29	
21	Higgs, MarkRB	5-7	196		
50	Hollier, Dwight LB	6-2	250	25	North Carolina
97	Hunter, Jeff DE	6-4	291	28	Albany State
82	Ingram, MarkWR	5-11	190	29	Michigan State
88	Jackson, KeithTE	6-2	254	29	
24	Jackson, Vestee CB	6-0	186	31	Washington
89	Johnson, Demeris WR	6-2	185	29	
43	Kirby, TerryRB	6-1	219	24	Virginia
99	Klingbeil, ChuckNT	6-1	289	29	N. Michigan
19	Kosar, Bernie QB	6-5	215	31	Miami
47	Malone, Darrell CB		182	27	Jacksonville St.
13	Marino, Dan QB	6-4	224	33	Pittsburgh
81	McDuffie, O.J WR	5-10	185	25	Penn State
67	Novak, JeffOL	6-6	300	27	SW Texas St.
93	Odom, CliffLB		236	36	Texas Arlington
56	Offerdahl, John LB		238	30	W. Michigan
20	Oliver, Muhammad CB	5-11	170	25	Oregon
30	Parmalee, BernieRB		204	27	Ball State
14	Pederson, Doug QB	6-3	209	26	NE Louisiana
45	Quarles, Shelton LB	6-1	228	23	Vanderbilt
92	Rooks, GeorgeDT	6-3	298	24	Syracuse
77	Rowell, TonyG	6-4	289	25	Florida
61	Ruddy, TimC	6-3	282	22	Notre Dame
22	Saxon, James,FB	5-11	237	28	San Jose State
69	Sims, KeithG		303	27	Iowa State
55	Singleton, ChrisLB	6-2	242	27	Arizona
29	Smith, Frankie CB	5-9	186	26	Baylor
35	Stewart, MichaelS	6-0		29	Fresno State
10	Stovanovich, Pete K				Indiana
57	Thayer, TomOL				
94	Veasey, CraigDT	6-2			Houston
23	Vincent Troy CR	6-0			Wisconsin

DRAFTEES							
d.	name	pos	ht	W	college		
1	Bowens, Tim	DT	6-4	325	Mississippi		
	Beavers, Aubrey			233	Oklahoma		
	Woolfork, Ron			253	Colorado		
	Gaines, William		6-5	285	Florida		
	Boyer, Brant			232	Arizona		
	Hill, Sean		5-10	177	Montana State		

6-0 192 24 6-6 302 27 6-5 288 25

6-3 266 23

WR 5-11 187 28 TE 6-3 259 28 Oklahoma State

S' 5-11 200 29 Florida

DT

DE

Wisconsin Texas A&M

Maryland

Kent State

Wake Forest

Vincent, Troy.

Webb, Richmond.

Webster, Larry...

Williams, Jarvis.

Williams, Ronnie.

Weidner, Bert

Williams, Jay Williams, Mike..

23

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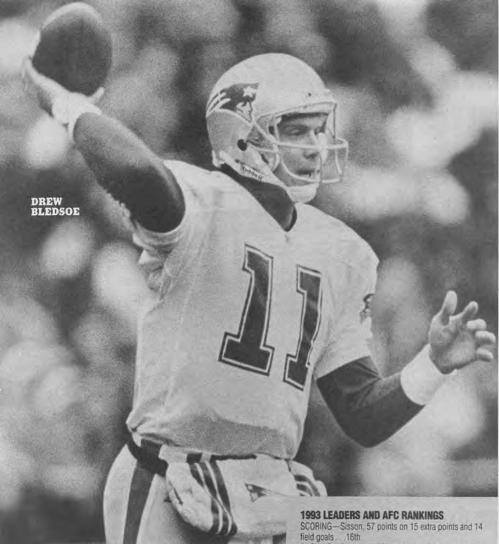
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NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

The Patriots haven't known such enthusiasm in a decade. They won their last four games in '94, their wonder quarterback, Drew Bledsoe, began to mature, and their coach, Bill Parcells, delivered as advertised.

Where do the Pats go from here? Don't expect any big leaps. Something like that might have happened if they had ended up last and inherited another cushy, fifth-place schedule, but the season-ending winning streak pushed them ahead of Indianapolis. Besides, they haven't played a critical game yet. On the other hand there is no denying the Patriots are excited about the future. "They were close enough to have won at least half the games they lost last year," said Miami's Don Shula, whose Dolphins lost to New England in the season finale. "Some of those losses against good teams they should have won, including the game against Buffalo in Foxboro."

Now every football fan in New England is waiting to see what sort of progress is made under the new owner, Bob Kraft, who also owns the stadium. His purchase ended all talk of moving the franchise, which should have a soothing effect on the team. The expectation that Parcells would be let loose in the free-agent market did not materialize, however. There isn't much doubt that Kraft overpaid for the team. That may have killed any ideas about blank checks. The Pats thought about big-time receivers Anthony Miller and Michael

RUSHING—Russell, 1,088 yards on 300 carries, 3.6 average, 7 TD...2nd

PASSING—Bledsoe, 214 of 429 attempts for 2,494 yards and 15 TDs...16th

RECEIVING—Coates, 53 receptions for 659 yards, 12.4 avg., 8 TDs. . .19th INTERCEPTIONS—Hurst, 4 for 53 yards, 13.3 avera-

ge...T6th PUNTING—Saxon, 73 punts, 42.4 avg., longest 59

yards. . . 10th

PUNT RETURNS—Harris, 23 for 201 yards, 8.7 average. . .9th KICKOFF RETURNS—Crittenden, 23 for 478 yards, 20.8

SACKS-Tippett, 8.5 sacks... T11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

t 5 NEW ORLEANS (N) 13 At L.A. Rams (N) 18 WASHINGTON (N)

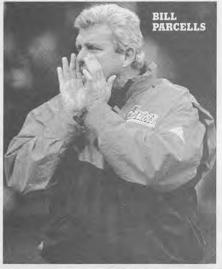
26 At Green Bay (N)

1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	At Miami	
	11	BUFFALO	10-13
	18		7-2
	25	At Detroit	16-19
October	2	GREEN BAY	
	9	L.A. RAIDERS	
	16	At N.Y. Jets	
	23	OPEN DATE	
	30		33-27
November	6	At Cleveland	20-17
	13	MINNESOTA	
	20		
	27	At Indianapolis (N).	6-9
December	4	N.Y. JETS	
	11	INDIANAPOLIS	
	18	At Buffalo	14-38
	24	At Chicago	

Haynes along with pass-rushing linebacker Tony Bennett, and then declined to sign them. Instead they signed foot soldiers like guard Bob Kratch and safety Myron Guyton of the Giants and took a stab at running back Blair Thomas, a flop with the Jets.

The most dramatic improvements may have occurred on draft day by traditional means. When Parcells was unable to trade up in the first round in order to select Big Daddy Dan Wilkinson, the dominating defensive tackle from Ohio State, he accepted a consolation prize in Willie McGinest of USC, widely considered to be the best pass-rush prospect in the draft. Equally important was a trade for power back Marion Butts from San Diego.

Both moves were designed to challenge Buffalo's supremacy in the division. Since the Bills lost both their star offensive tackles in free agency, Parcells can attack a vulnerability with McGinest. In the last Super Bowl, the game was broken open when the Cowboys overpowered the smaller Buffalo defensive linemen with a 64-yard drive during which Emmitt Smith pounded away behind his massive blockers. It could turn out that the Patriots may be able to do something similar with Butts carrying the ball behind New England's improved line. Parcells will find out soon enough. The





Pats play Buffalo in Foxboro in the second game of the season.

Bledsoe, by the testimony of friend and foe, could be one of pro football's next great quarterbacks. His 2,494 yards passing is fourth on the league's all-time rookie list. Seven of his 15 touchdown passes came in the last four games, when the Pats scored 91 points, 18 more than they scored in their previous eight games. Eight of their 11 losses were by six points or less, which makes the Bledsoe-led, late-season uprising all the more significant.

There is a nucleus of a good offensive line in veteran Bruce Armstrong at left tackle, Eugene Chung at left guard, and Pat Harlow at right tackle. Kratch takes over at right guard. Bill Lewis, the ex-Cardinal, is the center. Tight end Ben Coates not only led the team in receptions (53, including eight for touchdowns), he's a decent blocker as well. Leonard Russell gained 1,088 yards, second in the AFC, behind last year's line, but Parcells wanted even more power, thus the trade for Butts.

Vincent Brisby led all rookie wide receivers with 45 catches. Eventually he'll be paired with Kevin Lee, the Alabama flyer drafted in the second round. Lee gained more notoriety as a sprinter in college, but when he acquires some polish, New England should have one of the scarier deep threats in the league. Running back Corey Croom, who had a 93-yard day against Indianapolis in the final game of the season, could emerge as the third-down back. He's a special-teams' ace.

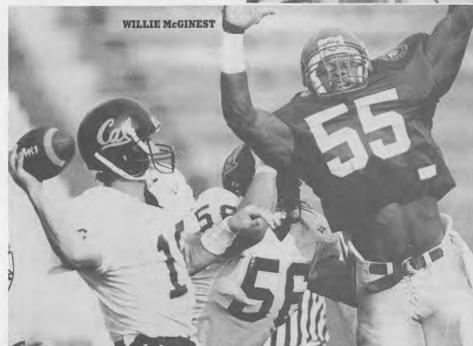
McGinest is likely to be used at right defensive end, with Mike Pitts, who beat out Ray Agnew early in the season, at left end and veteran Tim Goad at nose tackle. If McGinest makes an early splash, the Pats can come at passers from both sides, since pass-rushing right linebacker Chris Slade led the team with nine sacks as a rookie. Slade also was the team leader with three forced fumbles. Left linebacker Andre Tippett begins his 13th sea-

son at age 34, but he still led the Pats with four fumble recoveries. Vincent Brown, one of the premier inside linebackers, led the team with 158 tackles, 104 solo. His partner, Todd Collins, was second with 92 tackles. Dwayne Saab starts ahead of Slade because he's tougher against the run.

Guyton is expected to be the new strong safety, which leaves Corwin Brown, who made the all-rookie team, up in the air. Brown may end up challenging Harlon Barnett, the strong safety. The incumbent starting corners are Maurice Hurst and Rod Smith, but Rickey Reynolds of Tampa Bay was signed as a free agent and Darrell Wren is developing quickly.

Ray Crittenden averaged 21 yards on kickoff returns and Troy Brown nine yards per punt return. Parcells drafted a punter, Pat O'Neill of Syracuse, who also kicks off. There is a need to improve the place-kicking.





PATRIOTS VETERAN ROSTER

	PATRIOTS	VE	TE	RAN	R	OSTER
no.	name	pos	h	wt	age	college
92	Agnew, Ray	DE	6-3	272	27	N.C. State
78	Armstrong, Bruce		6-4	284	29	Lauisville
65	Arthur, Mike		6-3	280	26	Texas A&M
3	Bahr, Matt		5-10	175	38	Penn State
18	Ballard, Gregory	WR	6-3	190	23	Kansas
42	Barnett, Harlon	FS	5-11	200	27	Michigan St.
64	Barnett, Troy	DE	6-4	282	23	North Carolina
62	Basham, Bernard	DE	6-6	281	23	Virginia Tech
52	Bavaro, David	LB	6-1	228	27	Syracuse
11	Bledsoe, Drew	QB	6-5	233	22	Washington St.
49	Batkin, Kirk	TE	6-2	233	23	Arkansas
38	Boyd, Jean	SS	5-11	185	23.	Arizona State
82	Brisby, Vincent	.WB	6-1	186	23	NE Louisiana
30	Brown, Corwin	SS	6-1	192	24	Michigan
80	Brown, Troy Brown, Vincent	WR	5-9	183	23	Marshall
59	Brown. Vincent	LB	6-2	245	29	Miss. Valley St.
44	Butts, Marion		6-1	248	28	Florida State
99	Carthen, Jason		6-3	255	24	Ohio
69	Chung, Eugene		6-4	295	25	Virginia Tech
87	Coates, Ben		6-5	245	25	Livingstone
54	Collins, Todd	LB	6-2	242	24	Carson-Newman
81	Crittenden, Ray	WR	6-1	188	24	Virginia Tech
26	Croom, Corey	RB	5-11	212	23	Ball St.
50	DeOssie, Steve	LB	6-2	248	32	Boston College
17	Dixon, Todd	WH	5-10	175	23	Wake Forest
64	Durkin, Bill		6-5	280	23	Massachusetts
33	Gash, Sam		5-11	224	25	Penn St.
67	Gisler, Mike		6-4	300	25	Houston
15	Glenn, Kevin		6-1	166	23	Illinois State
72	Goad, Tim	N1	6-3	280	28	North Carolina
36	Green, Damacio		5-10	183	23	Virginia State
88	Griffith, Richard		6-5	256	25	Arizona Englara Kontrolar
	Guyton, Myron			205	27	Eastern Kentucky
77 84	Harris, Ronnie		6-6 5-10	170	25 24	USC Oregon
12	Hanny Maria	W/D	6-1	184	23	Rutgers
90	Henry, Mario Hooks, Bryan	DE	6-3	286	24	Arizona State
37	Hurst, Maurice		5-10	185	27	Southern
98	Johnson, Mario		6-3	288	24	Missouri
97	Jones, Aaron		6-5	267	28	Eastern Kentucky
55	Kerr, Mike	IB	6-5	236	25	Florida
61	Kratch, Bob		6-3	288	28	lowa
28	Lambert, Dion	FS	6-1	185	25	UCLA
35	Legette, Burnie	FB	6-1	243	24	Michigan
75	Lewis, Bill		6-6	290	31	Nebraska
43	Lewis, Vernon	CB	5-10	192	24	Pittsburgh
86	McMurtry, Greg	WR	6-2	207	27	Michigan
70	Moore, Brandon	T	6-6	290	24	Duke
93	Pitts, Mike		6-5	277	34	Alabama
23	Ray Terry	SS	6-1	205	25	Okiahoma
94	Reynolds, Don	DE	6-3	278	25	Virginia
21	Reynolds, Ricky	CB	5-11	190	29	Washington State
71	Rucci, Todd	G	6-5	291	24	Penn State
32	Russell, Leonard	RB	6-2	235	25	Arizona St.
95	Sabb, Dwayne	LB	6-4	248	25	New Hampshire
4	Saxon, Mike	P	6-3	202	32	San Diego St.
9	Sisson, Scott	K	6-1	197	23	Georgia Tech
74	Skene, Doug	G	6-6	295	24	Michigan
53	Slade, Chris	LB	6-4	232	23	Virginia
22	Smith, Rod	CB		187	24	Notre Dame
63	Stanley, Sylvester	NT	6-2	283	24	Michigan
66	Staten, Mark		6-6			Miami (OH)
41	Stephens, Eric		5-10	170	24	Jacksonville St.
31	Thomas, Blair	RB	5-10	202	27	Penn State
83	Timpson, Michael	WR	5-10	175	27	Penn State
56	Tippett, Andre		6-3	241	34	lowa
34	Tumer, Kevin		6-1	224	25	Alabama
62	Tylski, Rich		6-4	287	23	Utah State
39	Washington, Jarrod		6-1	205	22	Virginia Oklahoma St
76	Washington, John		6-4		31	Oklahoma St. Nebraska
51	White David		6-2	235	30	Nebraska Toledo
96 40	Williams, Brent Witherspoon, Derrick		5-10	198	23	Clemson
27	Wren, Darryl		6-1	188	27	Pittsburg St.
16	Zolak, Scott		6-5	222	27	Maryland
10	enan-nous-	III MIL	20	Selection.	41.	THE PERSON NAMED AS A PARTY NAMED A PARTY

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college	
1	McGinest, Willie	DE	6-4	255	USC	
2	Lee, Kevin	WR	6-0	194	Alabama	
3	Collier, Ervin	DT	6-4	270	Florida A&M	
3	Burch, Joe	C	6-2	278	Texas Southern	
	Burke, John		6-3	253	Virginia Tech	
5	O'Neill, Pat	P	6-1	197	Syracuse	
6	Hawkins, Steve	WR	6+5	208	Western Michigan	
6	Lane, Max	OT	6-6	283	Navy	
7	Walker, Jay	QB	6-3	227	Howard	
7	Moore, Marty	LB	6-1	239	Kentucky	

NEW YORK JETS

Pete Carroll, who inherited the Jets' head coaching job when Bruce Coslet made a goal-line stand about hiring an offensive coordinator and lost, thinks that the team's offensive breakdown in the last six games of the season wouldn't have happened if quarterback Boomer Esiason hadn't been handicapped by a stiff neck. That's not the way Boomer told it after Coslet's firing. He charged that some of the more prominent Jets cost Coslet his job and he named names.

Johnny Mitchell has to figure out what he's doing 100 percent of the time, not just 50 percent of the time," said Esiason. "I look at the true superstars of this league, and I see them playing hurt and not being afraid to run a particular route and making the extra effort to make it to the next level [a barb aimed at Rob Moore]. We can't worry about who's making the Pro Bowl and who's not making it. There's a little bit of selfishness that is associated with some of the people on our team [another barb, aimed at safety Brian Washington]. You do what's expected of you.'

How Boomer's words will end up playing when the Jets have to cope with another crisis isn't clear. Carroll made it clear that Boomer is still the man. Browning Nagle, the Jets' top draft choice in 1991, was cut.

Carroll doesn't agree with the theory that the Jets took their best shot with veteran free



agents like Ronnie Lott and Leonard Marshall and the trades for Esiason and Johnny Johnson and it flat-out fizzled. The new coach still feels that this is a good team whose playoff push was stalled by injuries. "It wasn't just Boomer's neck," he said. "When we lost Johnny Johnson to injury it really hurt our offense. He was not only giving us the running we lacked for several years, but he was a strong part of our passing attack.'

On the face of it, Esiason made a strong comeback after declining in Cincinnati. He finished fourth in the AFC passer ratings, third in

The completions and completion percentage were career highs. But the fact remains that there is a great deal of doubt about Boomer in aged just six points and failed to score a

yards gained passing, third in completions and completion percentage, and tied for fourth in lowest percentage of interceptions. 1994. In their last six games, the Jets avertouchdown in four of those games. They lost four of the six-and the wonder is that they won any of them. It may not have been Esiason's fault, especially considering his neck problem, but it happened on his watch and it seeded skepticism about his future.

The man most capable of relieving that skepticism is Johnson, voted the Jets' MVP after leading them in rushing (821 yards) and receptions (67 for 641 yards). He did not pick his spots, either. At Buffalo he ran for 94 yards and caught passes for 81 more. Chances are Johnson will get the ball far more than the 198 carries he logged last year. His blockers will

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING-Blanchard, 82 points on 31 extra points and 17 field goals . . . 14th

BOOMER

ESIASON

RUSHING-Johnson, 821 yards on 198 carries, 4.1 avg., 3 TDs. . .5th

PASSING-Esiason, 288 of 473 attempts for 3,421 yards and 16 TDs...4th

RECEIVING-Johnson, 67 receptions for 641 yards, 9.6 avg., 1 TD...9th

INTERCEPTIONS-Washington, 6 for 128 yards, 21.3 avg., 1 TD....T4th

PUNTING-Aguiar, 73 punts, 38.4 avg., longest 71

PUNT RETURNS-Hicks, 17 for 157 yards, 9.2 averaunranked

KICKOFF RETURNS-Murrell, 23 for 342 yards, 14.9 average 11th

SACKS-Lageman, 8.5 sacks . . . T11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August

5 At Detroit (N)

13 At Philadelphia (N)

20 N.Y. GIANTS (N)

	26	At Tampa Bay (N)	
1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	At Buffalo	14-16
20000000	11	DENVER	20-26
	18	At Miami	24-14
	25	CHICAGO (N)	
October	2	At Cleveland	
	9	INDIANAPOLIS	6-9
	16	NEW ENGLAND	45-7
	23	OPEN DATE	
	30	At Indianapolis	31-17
November	6	BUFFALO	10-19
	13	At Green Bay	
	20		-
	27	MIAMI	27-10
December	4	At New England	6-0
	10	DETROIT	
	18	SAN DIEGO	-
	24	At Houston	0-24

be Dwayne White and Roger Duffy, promoted from the ranks, at guard, Jim Sweeney at center, and Jeff Criswell and Siupeli Malamala at tackle. Fullback Brad Baxter can be as important to Johnson as any of the linemen.

When Chris Burkett made his surprise retirement announcement, it meant that Esiason would be throwing to mostly youngsters. Moore is the senior member, entering his fifth season. He caught 64 passes last year but scored only one touchdown. With Boomer's arm not as strong as it once was, the Jets opted to draft Ryan Yarborough, the Wyoming All-America who isn't supposed to have deep speed. You wouldn't know it from his college résumé. He caught .42 touchdown passes during his career, 18 of them 50 yards or longer. He led the nation with a 22-yard per-catch



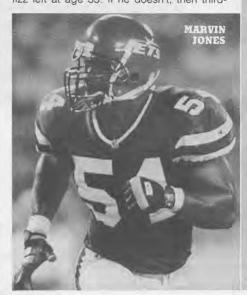


average last season. It would not be shocking if Yarborough won a starting job. Lower in ther draft came Orlando Parker of Troy State, who may start out returning kickoffs and contending for the title of "Fastest Man in the NFL." And this should be the year Mitchell begins terrifying secondaries. He did that early last season when he had a three-touchdown day against Philadelphia. That turned out to be half his season's production.

There are three major happenings that should improve the defense, Carroll's personal specialty. In fact the Jets, with some luck, could end up with one of the better units in the AFC. One is the return to health of middle linebacker Marvin Jones, whose chip fracture of the hip had the Jet brass frantic last year. Jones recovered well during the offseason. He hasn't started an NFL game yet, but if he doesn't excel this year it will be a major disappointment to the franchise. The second is the free-agent signing of Donald Evans of the Steelers as the new nose tackle. His speed should improve the interior pass rush. The third is the drafting of Aaron Glenn of Texas A&M, a cornerback with all-pro potential.

If Jones turns out to be the gem that every scout predicted, the linebacking could be savage. Mo Lewis, on the right side, had an immense season, making double-digit tackles in eight games. He was at his best against the best, with a dozen tackles and an interception in the Dallas game and 16 tackles in an early game against Buffalo. Bobby Houston is steady on the left side. It will take more than Jones's potential to beat out the reliable Kyle Clifton in the middle, however.

The coming of Evans means that Jeff Lageman is no longer the sole pass-rush threat coming from the Jet line. Lageman had 8½ sacks last year. When the offense sagged late in the season, end Marvin Washington was at his best, recording 31 tackles, 4½ sacks, and three forced fumbles in the final five games. Carroll needs a bigger contribution from Marshall at tackle. The ex-Giant broke his arm in the 12th game, but before that his play was spotty. The question is whether he has much fizz left at age 33. If he doesn't, then third-



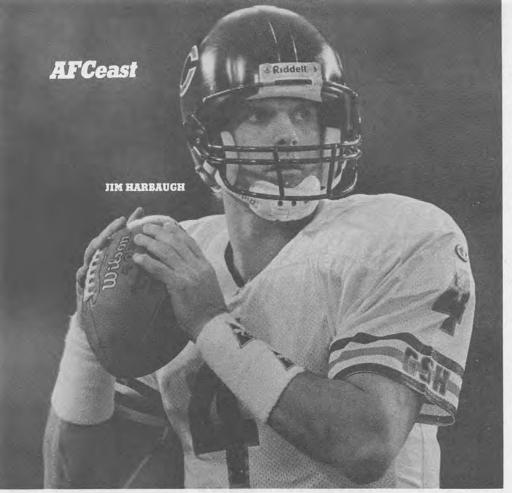
round draftee Lou Benfatti of Penn State, an undersized guy with a motor that never stops, may play more than planned.

Eric Thomas, the ex-Bengal, was released, so Glenn will step right into the cornerback spot opposite James Hasty. Strong safety Brian Washington led the Jets with six interceptions. Ronnie Lott, at 35, no longer plays like a Hall of Famer, but he provides leadership and is the best the Jets have at free safety.

Cary Blanchard missed five of his last six field goals in the final five games. Brian Hansen, signed as a free agent from the Browns, averaged 44 yards and should upgrade the worst punting in the league. Glenn led the nation with a 19.9-yard punt-return average.

110.	name pos	ht	wt	age	college
4	Aguiar, LouieP	6-2	215	28	Utah State
20	Anderson, RichieRB	8-2	215	23	Penn State
17	Anderson, Stevie WR	6-5	205	24	Grambling
98	Barber, KurtLB	5-4	241	25	USC
30	Baxter, BradRB	6-1	235	27	Alabama State
84	Baxler, Fred TE	6-3	250	23	Aubum
9	Blake, Jeff QB	6-0	202	24	East Carolina
10	Blanchard, Cary	6-1	225	26	Oklahoma State
76	Brown, JamesT	6-6	321	24	Virginia State
87	Burkett, ChrisWR	6-4	200	32	Jackson State
66	Cadigan, DaveG	6-4	285	29	USC
50		20.00			
	Cadrez, GlennLB	6-3	240	24	Houston
82	Carpenter, Rob WR	6-2	190	26	Syracuse
28	Chaffey, PatRB	6-1	220	27	Oregon State
59	Clifton, KyleLB	6-4	236	32	TCU
69	Criswell, JeffT	6-7	291	30	Graceland
89	Dawkins, DaleWR	6-1	190	28	Miami
52	Dixon, Cal	6-4	284	25	Florida
62	Duffy, RogerOL	6-3	285	27	Penn State
7	Esiason, Boomer QB	6-5	220	33	Maryland
	Evans, DonaldDE	6-2	275	30	Winston-Salem
91	Frase, PaulDL	6-5	270	29	Syracuse
21	Green, Victor	5-9	195	25	Akron
96	Gunn, MarkDL	6-5	279	26	Pittsburgh
30	Hansen, Brian	6-2	215	31	Sioux Falls
40					
	Hasty, James CB	6-0	201	29	Washington Sta
47	Hicks, Clifford CB	5-10	195	30	Oregon
55	Houston, Bobby LB	6-2	239	27	N.C. State
39	Johnson, JohnnyRB	6-3	220	26	San Jose State
54	Jones, MarvinLB	6-2	240	22	Florida State
56	Lageman, JeffDE	6-5	266	27	Virginia
57	Lewis, MoLB	6-3	250	25	Georgia
42	Lott, RonnieFS	6-1	203	35	USC
75.	Malamala, SiupeliT	6-5	308	25	Washington
70	Marshall, LeonardDT	6-4	288	33	LSU
74	McIver, EverettT	6-6	309	24	Elizabeth City St
94	Mersereau, ScottDT	6-3	275	29	So. Connecticut
86	Mitchell, Johnny TE	6-3	237	23	Nebraska
85	Moore, RobWR	6-3	205	26	Syracuse
29	Murrell, AdrianRB	5-11	205	24	West Virginia
8	Nagle, Browning QB	6-3	225	26	Louisville
71	Pickel, BillDT	6-5	265	35	
					Rutgers
26	Pieri, DamonFS	6-0	186	24	San Diego St.
27	Porter, KevinS	5-10	214	28	Auburn
37	Prior, Anthony DB	5-11	185	24	Washington Sta
92	Rudolph, ColemanDL	6-4	270	24	Georgia Tech
1	Shedd, Kenny WR	5-9	166	23	Northern Iowa
53	Sweeney, JimOL	6-4	286	32	Pittsburgh
80	Thornton, James TE	6-2	242	29	Cal-Fullerton
23	Turner, Marcus DB	6-0	190	28	UCLA.
68	Ware, DavidOL	6-6	285	24	Virginia
48	Washington, BrianSS	6-1	206	29	Nebraska
97	Washington, Marvin DE	6-6	272	29	Idaho -
67	White, DwayneG	6-2	315	27	Alcom State
77	Willig, MattT	6-8	305	25	USC
31	Young, Lonnie DB	6-1	196	31	Michigan State

DRAFTEES								
rd.	name pos	ht	wt	college				
1	Glenn, Aaron CB	5-8	184	Texas A&M				
2	Yarborough, Ryan WR	6-1	194	Wyoming				
3	Benfatti, Lou DT	6-3	277	Penn State				
4	Parker, Orlando WF	5-10	183	Troy State				
5	Morris, HoraceLB	6-2	231	Tennessee				
6	Lester, Fred RB	6-0	235	Alabama A&M				
7	Foley, Glenn QB	6-0	212	Boston College				



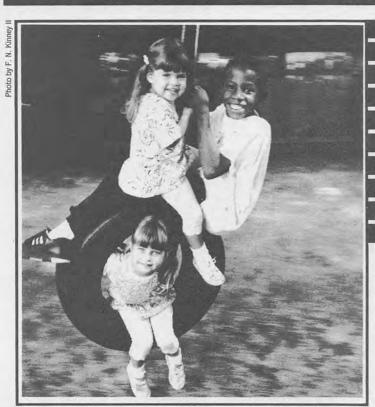
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Will there be any justice for Ted Marchibroda? He performed two coaching miracles for this franchise and now he's one false move from eviction. Jim Irsay seemed to have the Colts moving in the right direction as their general manager, and then his father, owner Robert Irsay, brought in Bill Tobin, the ex-Bears personnel chief as GM. Tobin hired his own brother, Vince, as defensive coordinator, and the expectation around the NFL is that if the team does not get off to a good start, Vince will be the new head coach.

Two years ago, Marchibroda took over a 1-15 team and won nine games with it, barely missing the playoffs. Only one other feat like that had ever been accomplished in the NFL, and that was in 1975, when Marchibroda assumed command of the Baltimore Colts and converted a 2-12 team to a 10-4 division champion in one year. Marchibroda has been operating under a handicap in Indianapolis. He inherited ex-Colt head coach Rick Venturi as his defensive coordinator in '92 and he had no say in Vince Tobin's hiring this time.

Marchibroda was in favor of trying to rehabilitate the attitude of strong-armed quarterback Jeff George, but George was traded to Atlanta and Bill Tobin signed free agent Jim Harbaugh, whom he drafted in Chicago. On draft day, Tobin passed up a chance to select Trent Dilfer, one of the two top quarterback prospects available. To worsen the coach's problems, his best defensive player, end Steve Emtman, may not be recovered suffi-

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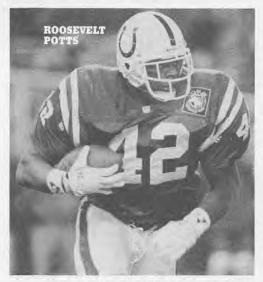
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ciently from his knee injury of a year ago to play at all in '94.

One thing seems certain for the Colts. They appear to be on their way to an improved defense—which should be easy, considering they finished last in the NFL in that category. Linebacker Tony Bennett arrived via free agency from Green Bay. After a long holdout and wrangle with the Packers, Bennett, still unhappy, had 6½ sacks. He's capable of twice that. The Colts already have a budding linebacking star in Quentin Coryatt and this year's draft brings Trev Alberts of Nebraska, a

potential superstar. Alberts had 15 sacks and 21 stops behind the line of scrimmage for the Huskers. Then, after dislocating his elbow in November, he played with a brace and recorded three sacks of Florida State's Charlie Ward in the Orange Bowl. Jeff Herrod is the fourth linebacker.

If Emtman is available, Tobin could employ the same type of anti-passer strategy he used when he coached the defense in New Orleans: Bennett and Alberts attacking from the outside, with Emtman and another giant, 6-7 Jon Hand, collapsing the middle. Even without Emtman, something like that may be tried. Still available are Tony Siragusa, Skip McClendon, and Thomas Sims. The incumbent secondary is Chris Goode and Eugene Daniel on the corners with Jason Belser at strong safety and Ray Buchanan, who started as a rookie, at free safety. It could look much different by midseason.

Harbaugh has to introduce himself to his receivers, but that's also true of the rest of the team. Tobin virtually purged the roster of veteran receivers when he took over. Part of those moves were caused by economics, part by artistic preference. Reggie Langhorne led the AFC in receiving with 85 catches but was released anyway, floated in the free market for months, and finally retired. Go figure. Jessie Hester, Clarence Verdin, and Aaron Cox were cut. The lone returnee is Sean Dawkins, who started only when Marchibroda used three receivers. For a first-round draft choice, Dawkins had a spotty season with a lot of drops and wandering concentration.

There will be a pronounced shift to the running game. Tobin announced that the passing game was now No. 4 on the Colt priority list. Rookie Marshall Faulk will be the principal performer. Harbaugh may find him a welcome target for passes, too. Faulk has been called a potential Thurman Thomas, with more speed.





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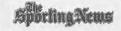
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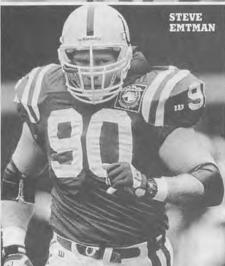
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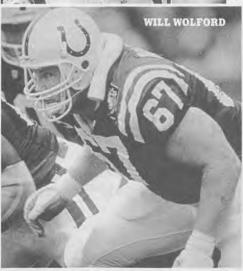


He's a game-breaker who comes up big in the biggest games. Bulky Roosevelt Potts led the Colts in rushing with 711 yards as a rookie, but he dropped the ball too much. With Faulk, Potts becomes the heavy-duty guy.

The draft brought the potential for improvement in the offensive line. The second-round selection was Eric Mahlum, California's outstanding center, and the third-rounder was tackle Jason Matthews of Texas A&M. Mah-







SCORING-Biasucci, 93 points on 15 extra points and 26 field goals ... 10th RUSHING-Potts, 711 yards on 179 carries, 4.0 avera-PASSING - George, 234 of 407 attempts for 2,526 yards and 8 TDs. . .9th RECEIVING-Langhorne, 85 receptions for 1,038 yards,

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

12.2 avg., 3 TD. . .1st INTERCEPTIONS—Buchanan, 4 for 45 yards, 11.3 aver-

age...T6th PUNTING-Stark, 83 punts, 43.3 avg., longest 65

PUNT RETURNS-Verdin, 30 for 173 yards, 5.8 avera-

KICKOFF RETURNS-Verdin, 50 for 1,050 yards, 21.0 average . . .4th

SACKS-Hand, 5.5 sacks... T17th

PRESEA	SON	SCHEDULE
August	5	SEATTLE (N)
	13	At Cincinnati (N
	20	At Dittehurgh /

25 CLEVELAND (N)

1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	HOUSTON	
	11	At Tampa Bay	
	18	At Pittsburgh	
	25	CLEVELAND	
October	2	SEATTLE	
	9	At N.Y. Jets	9-6
	16	At Buffalo	
	23	WASHINGTON	
	30	N.Y. JETS	17-31
November	6	At Miami	27-41
	13	OPEN DATE	
	20	At Cincinnati	9-6
	27	NEW ENGLAND (N).	9-6
December	4	At Seattle	
	11	At New England	0-38
	18	MIAMI	20-24
	24	BUFFALO	

lum is versatile, which is vital since he will start at right guard with Kirk Lowdermilk, the expensive free agent, an anchor at center. The best thing that could happen to Faulk is that Will Wolford, the most expensive free agent, is healthy again at left tackle. Before the coming of Faulk, the Colts were the weakest ground team in the NFL.

Marchibroda's thorniest situation is Harbaugh. The consensus thinking around the NFL is that Harbaugh had his chance as a starting quarterback for the Bears and proved that he was just good enough to get his team beaten. He threw for just seven touchdown passes last year and now he's with a team that totaled only 10. Bill Tobin obviously has a different view of him. Marchibroda needs to pull off another miracle in order to survive.

There is nothing wrong with the Colts' kicking game. Punter Rohn Stark averaged 43.3 yards and place-kicker Dean Biasucci went 26-for-31.

COLTS VETERAN ROSTER

10	name	pos	hl	Wf	age	college
33	Ambrose, Ashley	DB	5-10	177	24	Miss. Valley St
81	Arbuckle, Charles.		6-3	248	26	UCLA
86	Baker, Shannon		5-9	185	23	Florida State
36	Baylor, John		6-0	208	29	Southern Miss
29	Belser, Jason		5-9	187	24	Oklahoma
56	Bennett, Tony		6-2	243	27	Mississippi
4	Biasucci, Dean	K	6-0	190	32	Western Carolina
34	Buchanan, Ray		5-9	193	23	Louisville
53	Butcher, Paul	LB	6-0	230	31	Wayne State
71	Call, Kevin	OT	6-7	308	33	Colorado State
88	Cash. Kerry	TE	6-4	252	25	Texas
2	Cook, Mike	WR	6-4	205	23	Stanford
55	Coryatt, Quentin	LB	6-3	250	24	Texas A&M
35	Culver, Rodney	RB	5-9	224	25	Notre Dame
38.	Daniel, Eugene	DB	5-11	188	33	LSU
87	Dawkins, Sean	WR	6-4	213	23	California
69	Dixon, Randy		6-3	305	29	Pittsburgh
90	Emtman, Steve	DT	6-4	300	24	Washington
48	Etheredge, Carlos.		6-5	236	24	Miami
37	Goode, Chris		6-0	199	31	Alabama
59	Grant, Stephen		6-0	231	25	West Virginia
75	Gray, Cecil	OT	6-4	292	26	North Carolina
30	Gray. Derwin	DB	5-10	190	23	BYU
78	Hand, Jon	DE	6-7	301	31	Alabama
12	Harbaugh, Jim	QB	6-3	215	31	Michigan
54	Herrod. Jeff	LB	6-0	249	28	Mississippi
25	Humphrey, Ronald	RB	5-10	201	25	Miss Valley
23	Johnson, Anthony	RB	6-0	222	27	Notre Dame
11	Justin, Paul	QB	.6-4	202	26	Arizona State
63	Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6-4	280	31	Ohio State
7	Majkowski, Don	_ QB	6-3	203	30	Virginia
61	McCoy. Tony	NT	6-0	279	25	Florida
57	McDonald, Devon	LB	6-4	240	25	Notre Dame
73	Moss, Zefross		6-6	338	28	Alabama State
32	O'Neal, Robert		6-1	194	23	Clemson
96	Peguese, Willis	DE	6-4	273	28	Miami
42	Potts. Roosevelt	RB	6-0	258	23	NE Louisiana
52	Ratigan, Brian	LB	6-4	226		Notre Dame
68	Ray, John	OT	6-8	350		West Virginia
92	Sims. Thomas	DL	6-2	291	27	Pittsburgh
98	Siragusa, Tony	NT	6-3	303	27	Pittsburgh
1	Stablein, Brian	WR	6-1	185		Ohio State
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	203		Florida State
79	Staysniak, Joe	OT	6-4	296		Ohio State
94	Thomas, Marquise	LB.	6-4	255		
28	Toner, Ed	RB	6-0	240		Boston College
2	Vander Poel, Mark	OT	6-7			Colorado
62	Vickers, Kipp	OL	6-2	275		Miami
67	Wolford, Will	OT	6-5	300	30	Vanderbilt

DRAFTEES

d.	name	pos	nt	W	college	
1	Faulk, Marshall	RB	5-10	207	San Diego State	
1	Alberts, Trev	LB	6-4	203	Nebraska	
2	Mahlum, Eric	C	6-4	285	California	
3	Matthews, Jason	OT	6-5	274	Texas A&M	
4	Banta, Brad	TE.	6-6	245	USC	
5	Covington, John	DB	6-1	211	Notre Dame	
6	Warren, Lamont	RB	6-1	195	Colorado	
7	Teichelman, Lance.	DT	6-4	274	Texas A&M	



PITTSBURGH STEELERS

After two years on the job, Bill Cowher, the young head coach, took a silent vow: No more Mr. Nice Guy. When a blocked punt cost the Steelers a playoff victory over Kansas City, Cowher promptly fired John Guy and hired Bobby April, the highly regarded special-teams' coach from the Atlanta Falcons. Then Adrian Cooper, the tight end who admitted that he wasn't giving 100 percent because of a salary dispute with the front office, was traded to Minnesota. Donald Evans, loudly crabbing about management, was allowed to sign with the Jets.

When a team plays like a champion one week and a punching bag the next, a harder line seems called for and Cowher is ready to establish it. Pittsburgh relinquished its division championship to Houston a year ago, but now that the Oilers have been picked apart by free agency, the title is available for reclaiming. The Steelers are not talented enough to reclaim it with inconsistent football. They have to show up to work more often this season. Consider some of the inconsistencies:

On a Monday night in mid-November, the Steelers met the Buffalo Bills in Three River Stadium and dominated them. "Dominate"

may be too weak a word. They outhit, overwhelmed, and embarrassed the Bills. The final score was 23-0. One week later in Denver, the Broncos had their highest scoring output of the season in beating the Steelers 37-13. The Steelers went down to Miami in December and beat the Dolphins, then one of the league's hottest teams. The next week they lost their must game to Houston in Pittsburgh. Not only that, the following week in Seattle, the Seahawks, playing without their 1,000-yard rusher, Chris Warren, gained 267 yards on the ground in a 16-6 victory. Finally, in the playoff game in Kansas City, the Steelers harried Joe Montana and knocked him out of the game. They stuffed Marcus Allen. At one time they had a 10-point lead. All they had to do was execute a punt and they would advance to the quarterfinals. The kick was blocked and the Chiefs won in overtime.

Something, namely team chemistry, is missing from the Steelers, and Cowher has to find it this season. Some of the problems were swept from the dressing room, but some remain. Problem A for 1994 is Barry Foster, the talented but enigmatic runner. Foster suffered an ankle injury. The Steelers told him he needed rest, not surgery. He insisted upon surgery

PUNTING—Royals, 89 punts, 42.5 avg., longest 61 yards...9th

PUNT RETURNS—Woodson, 42 for 338 yards, 8.0 average...11th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Woodson, 15 for 294 yards, 19.6 average. . . . unranked

SACKS—Greene, 12.5 sacks... T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	6	At Miami (N)
	13	L.A. RAIDERS (N)
	20	INDIANAPOLIS (N)
	26	At Washington (N)

	-	in madinington (in)	
1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	DALLAS	
	11	At Cleveland	23-28
	18	INDIANAPOLIS	
	25	At Seattle	6-16
October	3	HOUSTON (N)	17-26
	9	OPEN DATE	-
	16	CINCINNATI	
	23	At N.Y. Giants	
	30	At Arizona (N)	
November	6	At Houston	3-23
	14	BUFFALO (N)	23-0
	20	MIAMI	21-20
	27	At L.A. Raiders	
December	4	At Cincinnati	24-16
	11	PHILADELPHIA	
	18	CLEVELAND	16-9
	24	At San Diego	16-3

and was lost for the year. It did not go well with management or with some of his teammates. Leroy Thompson gave a pretty good imitation of Foster a couple of times, but not often enough. Foster is the guy. In the background is rookie Byron "Bam" Morris, a power back who came out of Texas Tech a year early. When Merril Hoge signed with the Bears, the Steelers signed veteran Seattle fullback John L. Williams, who will run and block and catch about 50 passes.

Quarterback Neil O'Donnell's statistics weren't anything fabulous (3,208 yards, 14 touchdown passes), but he passed the Pittsburgh leadership test, especially when he played with a painful elbow injury. Cowher hopes he saw the real O'Donnell in the playoff game when he threw for three touchdowns and no interceptions. The best news for O'Donnell is the coming of Colorado's Charles Johnson, the best receiver in the draft. Better



than his 57 receptions as a senior was the news that he dropped only three balls all season. Steeler receivers sometimes exceed that by the end of the first quarter. When Colorado played that infamous brawl with Miami last year, Johnson had seven receptions in the second half alone. O'Donnell should love him.

The top-ranked Steeler receiver was tight end Eric Green, 16th in the AFC with 63 catches. Green can be irritating at times, such as when he called \$2 million a year "peanuts," but not many huge tight ends average 15 yards per catch. The best hope among the incumbent wide receivers may be Andre Hastings, whose bad judgment led him to leave Georgia after his junior year. He wasn't ready as a rookie but maybe he will be now.

The offensive line has the potential to get better. There is no question about Dermontti Dawson, the all-pro center. There is about Carlton Haselrig, the right guard. In 1992 he was in the Pro Bowl. In 1993 he was in a rehab center. Duval Love is a decent left guard. Leon Searcy is about to arrive as a first-rate tackle, and John Jackson will be playing for a new contract. Justin Strzelczyk is a reserve.

The Steelers drafted three defensive linemen in the first four rounds, which should tell you something. They also signed Ray Seals as a free agent. He had 81/2 sacks, tops on the Bucs last year. Cowher needs to keep Gerald Williams and Joel Steed healthy after a season in which they were bothered by nagging injuries. The rookies are Brentson Buckner of Clemson, Jason Gildon of Oklahoma State, and Taase Faumui of Hawaii.

The linebacking is a nice blend of experience and youth. Greg Lloyd led the team in tackles again. He is among the finest team leaders in the NFL. Kevin Greene, the ex-Ram, made a smashing debut with 121/2 sacks. Levon Kirkland arrived as an inside force and Chad Brown, forced to start as a rookie on the inside, could become a star. Rod Woodson was the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year and maybe its best all-round play-

er at cornerback. With D.J. Johnson having defected to Atlanta, Deon Figures moves up as Woodson's partner. The nickel back as a rookie, Figures demonstrated resilience. He was barbecued by John Elway in Denver one week but came back with a strong game against Houston the next. Darren Perry and Carnell Lake round out the secondary at the safety spots.

Despite the blocked punt in the playoff, Mark Royals is back as the punter. Gary Anderson had a phenomenal year, missing only two of 30 field goals. They no longer ask him to kick beyond midfield.

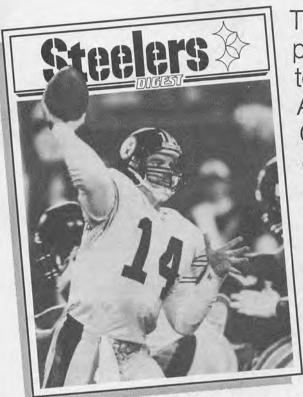
no.	STEELERS V		wt	age	callege
-		_	-	-	
1	Anderson, GaryPk	5-11	179	35	Syracuse
43	Avery, SteveFE	6-2	226	28	N. Michigan
50	Barnes, ReggieLE	6-1	235	25	Okiahoma
94	Brown, Chad LE		240	24	Colorado
87	Cooper, Adrian Te	6-5	270	26	Oklahoma
42	Cuthbert, RandyRE	6-2	225	24	Duke
80	Davenport, CharlesWi	5-3	210	26	N.C. State
64	Davidson, Kenny DE	6-5	275	27	LSU
63	Dawson, Dermontti	6-2	286	29	Kentucky
23	Dukes, Chuckie RE	5-9	202	24	Boston College
21	Figures, Dean CE	6-0	200	24	Colorado
79	Finn, MikeO	6-4	290	27	ArkPine Bluff
36	Foggie, Fred. DE	6-0	200	25	Minnesota
29	Foster, Barry RE	5-10	218	26	Arkansas
60	Gammon, Kendall	6-4	286	26	Pittsburg State
81	Graham, Jeff. WF	6-2	196	25	Ohio State
86	Green Eric TI	6-5	280	27	Liberty
91	Greene KevinLI		247	32	Auburn
22	Griffin, Larry	6-0	202	31	North Carolina
28	Haller, Alan Cf	5-11	185	24	Michigan State
77	Haselrig, Carlton		295	28	Pitt-Johnstown
88	Hastings, Andre Wi	6-0	188	24	Georgia
			275	26	Miss. State
76	Henry, Kevin		229	35	Oregon
53	Hinkle, Bryan Li	6-2	233	24	Washington
54	Hoffmann, Dave Li				Eastern Kentucky
65	Jackson, John 0		297	29	Texas A&M
25	Jones, Gary		214	27	
30	Jones, Victor Fl	5-8	215	27	LSU
84	Jorden, Tim T	E 6-3	240	28	Indiana
85	Keith, Craig. T	E 6-3	262	23	Lenoir-Rhyne
99	Kirkland, Levon Li		252	25	Clemson
37	Lake, CarnellS		210	27	UCLA
95	Lloyd, GregL	8 6-2	226	29	
67	Love, Duval	6-3	288	31	UCLA
56	Mack, RicoL	B 6-4	239	23	Appalachian St.
89	Mills, Ernie W	R 5-11	192	26	Florida
14	O'Donnell, Neil Q	B 6-3	230	28	Maryland
55	Olsavsky, Jerry L	B 6-1	224	.27	Pittsburgh
68	Palelei, Lonnie	6-3	311	24	UNLV
39	Perry, DarrenF		196	26	Penn State
3	Royals, Mark	P 6-5	215	30	Appalachian Stat
	Seals, RayD		270		None
72	Searcy, Leon		304	25	Miami
24	Shelton, Richard		202		Liberty
2	Snepherd, Leslie W		189		Temple.
61	Simpson, Tim0	L 6-2	296		Illinois
	Colomos Asial D	L 6-5	290		Colorado
69	Solomon, Ariel				
93	Steed, Joel N	T 6-2	295		Colorado Middle Tene St
20	Stone, Dwight WR/R		180		Middle Tenn. St.
11	Strom, Rick		199		Georgia Tech
73	Strzeiczyk, Justin0	L 6-6	295		Maine
96	Sutton, Ricky	E 6-2	281	23	Aubum
82	Thigpen, Yancey W	R 6-1	207		Winston-Salem S
34	Thompson, LeroyR	B 5-11	217		Penn State
18	Tomczak, Mike O	B 6-1	195		Ohio State
98	Williams, GeraldD	E 6-3			Auburn
	Williams, John L F	B 5-11	231		Florida
27	Williams, Willie C	B 5-9	188	24	Western Carolina
26	Woodson, Rod C	B 6-0	200	29	
90	Zgonina, Jeff	T 6-1	284		Purdue







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HOUSTON OILERS

Warren Moon is gone. So are Buddy Ryan, Mike Munchak, and both defensive ends who spurred the INFLO OF, hood, gone as well is the Central Division, championship. The Oilers floated one last Super Bowl balloon and Kansas City's Joe Monspurred the NFL's top pass rush. In all likeli-

It's back to the drawing board with Cody Carlson, Gary Brown, and the new breed. The offense will include a tight end for the first time in five seasons. This is a year to retool. Owner Bud Adams gave them one more year to win big. From October 17 to January 15, that's all they did-win 11 in a row. They had Kansas City by the throat in the playoffs too, but Montana rallied the Chiefs and Super Bowl fever subsided in Houston. To underline his change in policy, the owner promoted Floyd Reese to general manager. Now who knows what the future brings?

Carlson, who barely got his beak wet in '93, is the present and future quarterback. He's no rookie. At 30, this is his eighth season. There have been years when he did nothing but mop up and years when he started. In 1992 he started the last six games and finished with the best completion record in the AFC. Will he bring the charge that Moon brought to this team? Coach Jack Pardee hired veteran NFL offensive guru Dick Coury to help him, even though Kevin Gilbride is still the offensive coordinator. Last year the Oilers scored 270 of their 368 points during that season-ending winning streak. Chances are the fans won't see scoring like that this year.

The expectation is that Brown, who bounced around from defense to offense at Penn State, will be a major part of the Oiler offense in his fourth season with them. After he beat out Lorenzo White, he ran for 1,002 yards on 195 carries. His 5.1-yard average was exceeded by only one back in the NFL who had more than 100 carries-Emmitt Smith of Dallas. A 233-pounder with a wide wheel base, Brown has great balance.

In what may have been the last season of pure run-and-shoot offense, the Oiler receiv-





SACKS-Jones, 13.0 sacks. PRESEASON SCHEDULE

average...unranked

31 At Kansas City (N)

SAN DIEGO at San Antonio, TX (N)

15 Dallas at Mexico City, MX

20 BUFFALO at San Antonio, TX (N)

	27	L.A. RAIDERS	
1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	At Indianapolis	
	11	At Dallas	inimianaminimi —
	18	BUFFALO	7-35
	25	CINCINNATI	28-12
October	3	At Pittsburgh (N)	26-17
	9	OPEN DATE	
	13	CLEVELAND (N)	19-17
	24	At Philadelphia (N).	
	30	At L.A. Raiders	
November	6	PITTSBURGH	23-3
	13	At Cincinnati	
	21	N.Y. GIANTS (N)	
	27	At Cleveland	27-20
December	4	ARIZONA	
	11	SEATTLE	24-14
	18		
	24	ALM IETO	24-0

ers had their usual eye-popping numbers. Webster Slaughter caught 77 passes, Ernest Givins 68, and Haywood Jeffires 66. Free agency threatened that lineup. The draft brings Malcom Seabron of Fresno State, who was hurt as a senior but led the nation with a 23.8-yard average as a junior. As a reintroduction to the tight end, the Oilers signed Pat Carter of the Rams as a free agent. He should help Brown's running statistics. Roderick Lewis of Arizona, possibly the fastest tight end in the draft, should help Carlson.

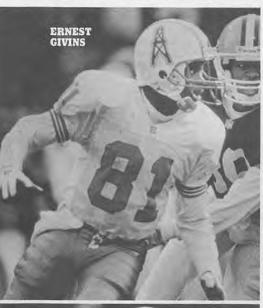
The offensive line will be reshaped. The retirement of Munchak, the great guard, is one reason. There could be another shift if Brad Hopkins can't improve on the last few games of his rookie year. It could be that he can't handle tackle and will have to be played at guard. If that happens, Bruce Matthews might have to be shifted to tackle. Doug Dawson

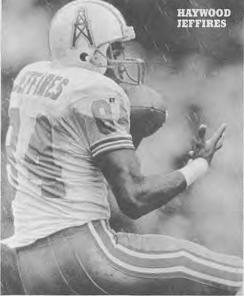
and David Williams are the constants on the right side at guard and tackle, respectively. The key may be how well John Flannery, who can play center and tackle, recovers from his blown-out knee. Adams had to match offer sheets to keep reserves Kevin Donnalley and Erik Norgard. The latter can play center as well or guard.

Ryan may be gone but his defensive system lives on. To replace him, the Oilers hired Jeff Fisher, San Francisco's defensive backfield coach. Before he worked for the 49ers. he was the Rams' defensive coordinator. Not only did he play for Ryan with the Bears, he was his defensive coordinator in Philadelphia, the youngest in the NFL at the time. The freeagent defections of ends William Fuller and Sean Jones creates the major worry. Henry Ford of Arkansas was drafted to play right end even though Keith McCants is the nominal starter. Lee Williams, always unhappy because he didn't get to play left end, now inherits the position. The Oilers need a year from him that ranks with his best in San Diego. Ray Childress is still the rock inside. Glenn Montgomery is his partner. Rookie Jeremy Nunley of Alabama can provide depth.

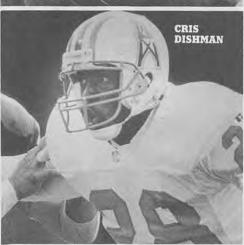
Micheal Barrow moves outside to join Eddie Robinson in flanking middle linebacker Al Smith. Lamar Lathon will play a lot. Marcus Robertson is back from the disabled list to play free safety alongside Bubba McDowell on the strong side. Darryll Lewis should reclaim right corner opposite Cris Dishman.

Pro Bowler Rich Camarillo, dropped by Arizona in a salary-cap move, is the new punter. Al Del Greco had the best year of his career, setting an Oiler record with 126 points. He kicked 29 field goals in 34 attempts, connecting on four of seven from beyond 50.



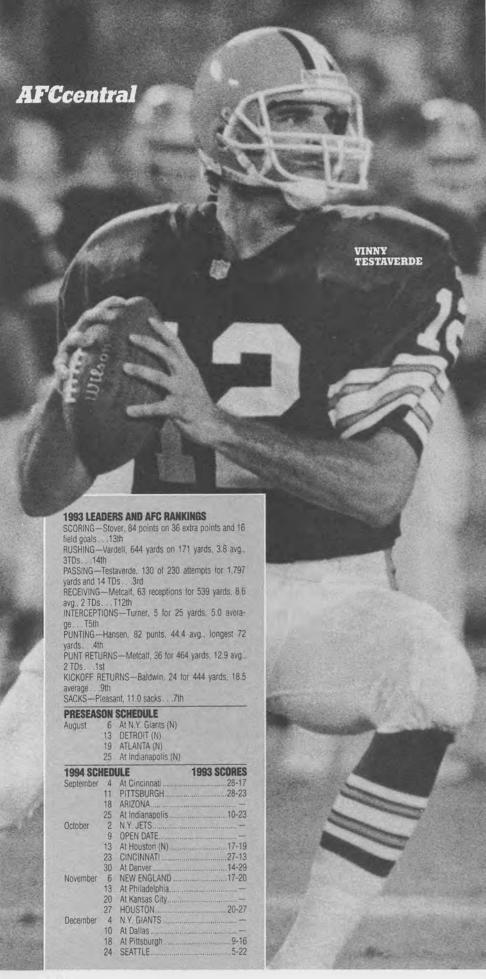






no.	name pos	ht	wt	age	college
-			_		
36	Aldridge, MelvinS	6-2	195 236	24	Murray State
51	Barrow, Micheal LB	6-1		24	Miami Pall Ctata
23	Bishop, Blaine DB	5-8	197	24	Ball State
59	Bowden, JoeLB	5-11		24	Oklahoma
33	Brown, GaryRB	5-11	233	25	Penn State
17	Brown, ReggieWR	6-1	195	24	Alabama State
22	Brown, Tony CB		183	24	Fresno State
330	Camarillo, RichP	5-11	195	35	Washington
14	Carlson, Cody QB	6-3	202	31	Baylor
46	Carter, PatTE	6-4	258	28	Florida State
79	Childress, RayDT	6-6	272	32	Texas A&M
37	Coleman, PatWR	5-7	176	27	Mississippi
66	Dawson, Doug	6-3	288	33	Texas
3	Del Greco, AlPK	5-10	202	32	Auburn
28	Dishman, Cris CB	6-0	188	29	Purdue
77	Donnalley, Kevin T	6-5	305	26	North Carolina
38	Dumas, MikeS	5-11	181	25	Indiana
80	Duncan, CurtisWR	5-11	184	29	Northwestern
55	Flannery, John G/C	6-3	304	25	Syracuse
92	Ford, Henry DE	6-3	284	23	Arkansas
31	Givins, ErnestWR	5-9	178	30	Louisville
32	Hannah, Travis WR	5-7	161	24	USC
27	Hoage, TerryS	6-2	201	32	Georgia
72	Hopkins, BradT	6-3	306	24	Illinois
24	Jackson, Steve CB	5-8	182	25	Purdue
34	Jeffires, Haywood WR	6-2	201	30	N.C. State
56	Kozak, Scott LB	6-3	222	29	Oregon
57	Lathon, LamarLB	6-3	252	27	Houston
29	Lewis, Darryll CB	5-9	183	26	Arizona
58	Marshall, WilberLB	6-1	240		Florida
47					
74	Maston, Le'ShaiRB	6-1	215	24	Baylor
	Matthews, Bruce	6-5	298	33	USC
78	McCants, KeithDE	6-3	265	26	Alabama
25	McDowell, BubbaS	6-1	198	28	Miami
48	Mills, John Henry TE	6-0	222	25	Wake Forest
94	Montgomery, Glenn DT	6-0	282	27	Houston
9	Montgomery, Greg P	6-4	210	30	Michigan State
64	Norgard, ErikOL	6-1	282	29	Colorado
93	Nunley, Jeremy DE	6-5	278	23	Alabama
26	Orlando, Bo	5-10	180	28	West Virginia
7	Richardson, Bucky QB	6-1	228	25	Texas A&M
88	Roberts, TimDT	6-6	318	25	So. Mississippi
31	Robertson, MarcusS	5-11	197	25	Iowa State
50	Robinson, Eddie LB	6-1	245	24	Alabama State
	Salisbury, Sean QB	6-5	217	31	USC
89	Slaughter, Webster WR	6-1	175	30	San Diego St.
54	Smith, AlLB	6-1	244	30	Utah State
71	Teeter, Mike DT	6-2	260	27	Michigan
70	Thomas, StanT	6-5	295		Texas
32	Tillman, SpencerRB	5-11	206		Oklahoma
88	Wellman, GaryWR	5-9	173		USC
44	White, LorenzoRB	5-11	222	28	Michigan State
73	Williams, DavidT	6-5	292	28	Florida
97	Williams, LeeDL	6-6	275	32	Bethune-Cookman
28	TTIIII GIII D. LOC	0-0	210	OL	PONICING-CONVINCI

		DRA	34.85	1		
d.	name	pos	ht	wt	college	
1	Ford, Henry	DE/DT	6-3	283	Arkansas	
2	Nunley, Jeremy	DE	6-5	265	Alabama	
3	Seabron, Malco	olm WR	6-0	180	Fresno State	
4	Davis, Michael	DB	6-2	191	Cincinnati	
4	Jackson, Sean.	RB	6-2	222	Florida State	
5	Lewis, Roderick	TE	6-5	251	Arizona	
5	Reid, Jim	OT	6-7	305	Virginia	
6	Gissendaner, L	ee WR	5-9	175	Northwestern	
6	Wortham, Barro	nLB	6-0	230	UTEP	
7	Half, Lemanski	LB	6-1	220	Alabama	

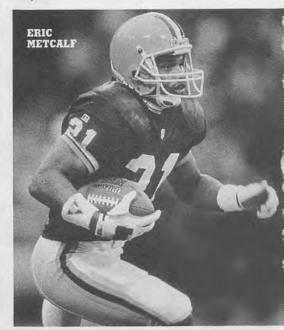


CLEVELAND BROWNS

Would you trust Vinny Testaverde and Bill Belichick to take you where you have never been, namely the Super Bowl? That's what Art Modell, the Browns' frustrated owner, is doing. Belichick, the control-obsessed coach, has to regain his credibility with the Cleveland fans and his players after shooting himself in the foot early last season. The Browns were 5-2 when he dumped the popular Bernie Kosar while Testaverde was injured and unable to play for a month. The explanation was that Kosar's "skills had diminished." Most NFL people will confirm that, but the Browns had no other viable quarterback at the time. By the time Testaverde returned, the season was in a shambles and the Browns finished 7-9.

Now the Browns start the era of Vinny. They expect that he will be the quarterback he never was in Tampa Bay after the Bucs made him the No. 1 pick in the 1987 draft. His NFL career to date bears no evidence that Testaverde can be a championship quarterback. The skeptics in Cleveland maintain that his principal value is that he will do what Belichick tells him without arguing or even questioning, something the cerebral Kosar seldom did.

Which brings up Belichick's status. His three-year record in Cleveland is 20-28. When the Browns began collapsing after Kosar's departure and "Bill Must Go!" became the theme song in Cleveland Stadium, Modell responded emotionally by giving Belichick a five-year extension on his contract. The owner



did the same thing with Sam Rutigliano in a similar situation in 1983. Five games into the next season he fired Rutigliano. There was a call for Belichick to loosen control a bit and hire an offensive coordinator. Titles have been rearranged, but essentially Belichick remains his own offensive coordinator. If the Browns are to move up in the division, they'll probably do it with their defense and a running game. Ironically, that's the sort of team they were under Marty Schottenheimer, Belichick's far more successful predecessor. Belichick remains stoically optimistic. "I think we could

significantly improve the team with two or three key guys," he said. "I think there's going to be a big jump this year."

The Browns went into the free-agent market for tight end Walter Reeves of Phoenix, cornerback Don Griffin of San Francisco, and guard Mike Withycombe of San Diego. Their "big-jump" capacity is minimal. If there is even a minor jump, it is more likely to come from the two first-round draft choices: Alabama cornerback Antonio Langham and Michigan wide receiver Derrick Alexander. Langham is a bona fide big-play man. He intercepted 18 passes during his three years as a Crimson Tide starter. He also scored five touchdowns, three on interceptions and two on blocked kicks. Alexander caught 21 touchdown passes for the Wolverines and returned four punts for touchdowns.

Any help is welcome, but the big-play personality for the Browns is still Eric Metcalf. He had the team's longest run, 55 yards; the longest kickoff return, 91 yards for a touchdown; the longest punt return, 47 yards; and one of the longest pass receptions, a 49-yard touchdown. Metcalf carried the ball just 129 times, but still had 611 yards (4.7 average). He caught 63 passes for 539 yards and returned 36 punts for a 12.9-yard average (tops in the AFC) and two touchdowns and 15 kickoffs for a 21.2-yard average. The pounder in the running attack is Tommy Vardell, who led the team with 644 yards and three rushing touchdowns. As the offensive line ripens, Vardell's usefulness should increase. He had never fumbled in a college or pro game until he did it twice against Atlanta in late November. Belichick prizes that reliability. Leroy Hoard averaged 4.1 yards for his 56 carries

Other than center Steve Everitt, the offensive line is not full of star potential, but as a unit it is improving. It allowed 35 sacks in the first nine games, only 10 the rest of the season. Ex-Falcon Houston Hoover is the left guard with Bob Dahl on the right side. Modell spent serious money to re-sign left tackle Tony Jones, the offensive captain. Ex-Dolphin Gene Williams is the right tackle. Everitt could be in the Pro Bowl one of these years. He started all 16

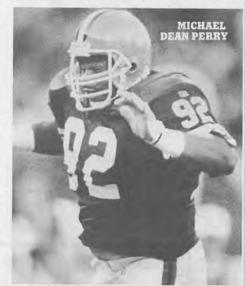
games as a rookie.

Expect Testaverde to look for Mark Carrier

first in the passing schemes. They were battery mates at Tampa Bay. Carrier caught 43 passes for a 17.3-yard average. Michael Jackson is more explosive. He scored eight touchdowns on his 41 catches and averaged 18.4 yards. Alexander is a wild card in this equation. Keenan McCardell caught just 13 passes a year ago but scored on four of them. Reeves is valued mostly for his blocking.

The Browns suffered an unexpected blow when they lost their leading tackler and defensive captain, linebacker Mike Johnson, to Detroit. Clay Matthews is 38 and already has played longer than any other NFL linebacker. This is his 17th season. He's the oldest defensive player in the league. The other incumbent starter, ex-Giant Pepper Johnson, had a disappointing year. Second-year man Mike Caldwell and veteran Carl Banks have to come through. No linebackers were drafted.

The hallmark in the defensive line is pass rush. The ends, Anthony Pleasant and Rob Burnett, combined for 20 sacks. Tackles Michael Dean Perry and James Jones combined





for 11½. Perry was named to his fourth Pro Bowl. The draft brings Romeo Bandison of Oregon, who joins Bill Johnson to provide depth.

Langham will step right into the secondary opposite Najee Mustafaa, who started 14 games despite a series of nagging injuries. Donald Frank comes from San Diego. Strong safety Stevon Moore led the team with 96 solo tackles. Free safety Eric Turner may have momentum, since he intercepted passes in three straight games in late December.

New England signed punter Brian Hansen as a free agent. Place-kicker Matt Stover hit 16 of 22 field goals, including his last three in a tight loss to Pittsburgh.

BROWNS VETERAN ROSTER ht wt age colleg Arvie, Herman 27 Mississippi 32 Michigan State Baldwin Randy RB 5-10 216 LB 6-4 235 Banks, Carl Briggs, Greg. 26 Texas Southern 77 52 Brown, Orlando 6-7 325 S.C. State Brown Richard LB 6-3 240 29 San Diego State 6-4 280 27 Syracuse Burnett, Rob. DE Caldwell, Mike Middle Tenn. St. 83 Carrier, Mark. WR 6-0 185 29 Nicholls State 26 25 Dahl, Bob. 6-5 300 Notre Dame Dixon, Gerald. LB 6-3 250 South Carolina Michigan 61 Everitt. Steve. 6-5 290 24 Footman Dan DE 25 29 78 6-5 200 Florida State Frank, Donald 6-0 192 CB Winston-Salem Goebel, Brad. 198 Middle Tenn. St. 28 Griffin Don CB 6-0 176 30 Hairston, Stacey 27 CB 5-9 180 Ohio Northern Hill, Travis 6-2 240 Nebraska CB 5-11 160 27 RB 5-11 225 26 39 Hilliard Bandy Northwestern La. Hoard, Leroy Michigan Hoover, Houston 6-2 300 29 Jackson State Jackson, Michael WR 6-4 195 25 CB 5-10 185 24 Southern Miss. Jacobs, Tim Delaware Johnson, Bill. 26 6-4 290 Michigan State 53 Johnson, Pepper LB 6-3 248 Ohio State 6-3 255 26 6-2 290 25 Jones, David Delaware State Jones, James DT Northern Iowa 22 66 Jones, Selwyn. Colorado State Janes, Tony 6-5 295 28 West 6-2 240 29 LSU 28 Western Carolina Kinchen, Brian TE 68 King, Ed. 300 25 Auburn 34 Mack, Kevin FB 6-0 225 32 Clemson Matthews, Clay 245 175 6-2 38 USC McCardell, Keenan UNLV 250 190 80 McLemore, Tom. 6-5 Metcalf, Eric. RB 5-10 26 Texas 25 Delawa 65 27 48 Milstead, Rod. 6-2 290 Delaware State Moore, Stevon 5-11 210 Mississippi Mustafaa, Najee CB 6-1 190 30 Georgia Tech Perry, Michael Dean .. DT 6-1 29 285 Clemson 17 Syracuse 9R Pleasant Anthony DE 6-5 280 26 Tennessee State 49 Reeves, Walter TE 6-4 270 29 Aubum 42 Riddick, Louis Pittsburgh 86 75 Rowe, Patrick WR 6-1 195 Sagapolutele, Pio . Smith, Rico DL 6-6 297 San Diego St. 185 6-0 Colorado 200 Speer, Del. Stams Frank LB 29 26 6-2 Notre Dame Stover, Matt. Louisiana Tech 3 54 Sutter Ed IR 6-3 235 6-5 215 25 31 Northwestern Testaverde, Vinny . QB Miami 85 6-5 230 Tillman, Lawyer 28 Aubum 6-4 230 6-1 207 Tupa, Tom P/QB 28 Ohio State Turner, Eric 26 UCLA Vardell, Tommy 230 Stanford 25 Williams, Gene .OL 6-2 305 6-2 300 26 23 Iowa State Williams Wally Florida A&M

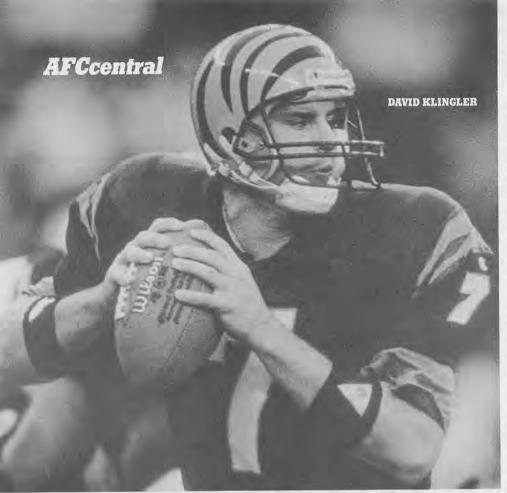
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rd.	name po	IS	ht.	wt	college
1	Langham, Antonio C	В	5-11	180	Alabama
1	Alexander, Derrick W.	R	6-0	196	Michigan
3	Bandison, Romeo D	T	6-5	280	Oregon
5	Booth, Isaac Di	В	6-3	185	California
6	Strait, Robert Ri	В	6-0	256	Baylor
7	Hewitt, Andre 0	T	6-6	270	Clemson

RB 6-0 220

Withycombe, Mike Wolfiev, Ran 6-5 300

West Virginia



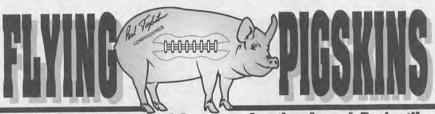


CINCINNATI BENGALS

There are major changes in Cinci and they should make coach David Shula's life more pleasant. Free agents have been signed. Bruce Coslet, the ex-Jets head coach, returns to town as the offensive coordinator. Larry Peccatiello takes over as defensive coordinator. Dan "Big Daddy" Wilkinson arrives to worry the opposition's offensive coordinators.

The hiring of Coslet and Peccatiello, respected veteran coaches, should tighten the atmosphere on the team, which should help Shula, the youngest head coach in the NFL. The Bengals are going to find out if David Klingler is truly their quarterback of the future after he works with Coslet. The defensive design will change from a 3-4 with the emphasis on high-risk blitzing to a 4-3 in the image of the Washington Redskins' great teams, of which Peccatiello was an important part.

Wilkinson, the first pick in the '94 college draft, needs some polishing since he still had two years of college eligibility remaining when he decided to turn pro. Yet in his unpolished state, he has the stuff to dominate a game. A number of NFL scouts feel that Wilkinson, even at 315 pounds, has the quickness and fast feet to be used at end in passrushing situations. Peccatiello is likely to station him at tackle in the new four-man front and allow him to control the interior. Since the Bengals used last year's top draft pick to select defensive end John Copeland, who had a strong rookie year, the potential for swift improvement in blunting the run as well as bothering the passers is now present.



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Cinci finished 27th in passing and 24th in running in the league, so the room for improvement is vast. The feature back was Harold Green, who averaged just 2.7 yards for his 251 carries, not the formula for sustained drives. It would also help if Green's rift with Shula, which broke into the newspapers, is at least mended if not healed. There wasn't much else since Klingler was the next-most productive ground gainer when he was running for his life. Free agent Steve Broussard of

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Pelfrey, 85 points on 13 extra points and 24 field goals 12th

RUSHING—Green, 589 yards on 215 carries, 2.7 avera-

ge...17th
PASSING—Klingler, 190 of 343 attempts for 1,935 yards and 6 TDs...15th

yards and 6 TDs....15th
RECEIVING—Query, 56 receptions for 654 yards, 11.7

avg., 4 TDs...17th INTERCEPTIONS—Brim, 3 for 74 yards, 24.7 avg., 1

PUNTING—Johnson, 90 punts, 43.9 avg., longest 60

PUNT RETURNS—Robinson, 43 for 305 yards, 7.1 average 12th

age...12th KICKOFF RETURNS—Robinson, 30 for 567 yards, 18.9 average...8th

SACKS-Stubbs, 5.0 sacks...T18th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

igust	6	At Tampa Bay (N)
	13	INDIANAPOLIS (N)
	20	At Philadelphia (N)

26	DETROIT (N)	
HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
4	CLEVELAND	17-28
11	At San Diego	
18		2-7
25	At Houston	12-28
2	MIAMI (N)	
9	OPEN DATE	
16	At Pittsburgh	7-34
23	At Cleveland	14-27
30	DALLAS	
6	At Seattle	10-19
13	HOUSTON	3-38
20	INDIANAPOLIS	6-9
27	At Denver	
4	PITTSBURGH	16-24
11	At N.Y. Giants	
18	At Arizona	
24	PHILADELPHIA	
	4 11 18 25 2 9 16 23 30 6 13 20 27 4 11 18	HEDULE 4 CLEVELAND 11 At San Diego 18 NEW ENGLAND 25 At HOUSTON 9 OPEN DATE 16 At Pittsburgh 23 At Cleveland 30 DALLAS 6 At Seattle 13 HOUSTON 20 INDIANAPOLIS 27 At Denver 4 PITTSBURGH 11 At NY Giants 18 At Arizona

the Falcons should provide both a change of pace and someone to catch the ball on third down. The only back drafted was 231-pound Jeff Cothran of Ohio State, whose principal duties were blocking and catching passes. Derrick Fenner wants more work.

When Cincinnati used to appear in the Super Bowl, one of the team's hallmarks was strong offensive-line play. The same coach, Jim McNally, still tutors the Bengals' linemen, but he hasn't had much to work with lately. Offensive linemen were an afterthought in Cinci's drafting for several years. That is changing. Of the first three free agents signed by the Bengals, two were guards, Darrick Brilz of Seattle and Eric Moore of the Giants. Brilz and Moore should alter the look of the line. Ken Moyer is the center with another veteran, Joe Walter, at right tackle. Bruce Kozerski should fit in there somewhere. Second-year men Scott Brumfield and Tom Scott started as rookies. Scott handled the tough left-tackle job and improved later in the season, but Kevin Sargent, who underwent two surgeries to fix his broken right arm, could be the left tack-





le if he's healed. The line simply has to do a better job of protecting the quarterback. Only Jeff George, then of Indianapolis, was sacked more than the 40 times Klingler was dumped. Klingler played under tight control in his first full season as the starting quarterback. He was intercepted just nine times but threw for only six touchdowns. His average gain per pass of 5.64 yards was the lowest in the AFC. There is no assurance Klingler will be unshackled this season.

no.	BENGALS VE	TER hi	WI	age	college
42	Ball, EricRB	6-2	220	28	UCLA
21	Benjamin, RyanRB	5-7	183	24	Pacific
60	Bradley, ChuckT	6-5	296	24	Kentucky
		6-3	240	29	Georgia
57	Brantley, John LB			30	
65	Brilz, DarrickG	6-3	287		Oregon State
43	Brim, MikeCB	6-0	192	29	Virginia Union
33	Broussard, Steve RB	5-7	201	27	Washington St.
72	Brumfield, ScottT	6-8	320	24	BYU
92	Copeland, JohnDT	6-3	286	24	Alabama
18	Drage, EricWR	6-1	180	23	BYU
41	Duckett Forey CB	6-3	195	24	Nevada
20	English, WillieRB	5-11	225	23	Central Florida
44	Fenner, DerrickRB	6-3	228	27	North Carolina
50	Francis, JamesLB	6-5		26	Baylor
97	Frier, MikeDE	6-5	299	25	Appalachian St.
47	Frisch, DavidTE	6-7	260	24	Colorado State
	Cardan Alau I.O.				
58	Gordon, AlexLB	6-5	245	30	Cincinnati
24	Grant, Alan CB	5-10	187	28	Stanford
28	Green, HaroldRB	6-2	222	26	South Carolina
27	Gunn, LanceS	6-3	222	24	Texas
98	Hinkle, GeorgeDT	6-5	288	29	Arizona
12	Hollas, Don QB	6-3	215	27	Rice
55	Johnson, LanceLB		265	24	Notre Dame
11	Johnson, Lee	6-2	200		BYU
66	Jones, DanT	6.7	204		Maine
	Junes Dad CD	6-7	185	30	SMU
25	Jones, Rod CB	0-0			
7	Klinger, David QB	6-2	205	25	Houston
64	Kozerski, Bruce	6-4	287		Holy Cross
69	Krumrie, TimNT	6-2	274	34	WiscMadison
75	Linn, Jack UL	6-5	285	27	West Virginia
56	McDonald, Ricardo LB	6-2	235	25	Pittsburgh
85	McGee, Tim WR McGee, Tony TE McGill, Karmeeleyah LB	5-10	183	30	Tennessee
82	McGee. TonyTE	6-3	246	23	Michigan
59	McGill Karmeelevah 1B	6-3	224	23	Notre Dame
36	Miles. OstellRB	6-0	236		Houston
62	Moore, Eric	6-5			Indiana
73		6-7	297	28	Toledo
	Moyer, KenT		292		
95	Nix, RooseveltDE	6-6		27	Central St.
29	Oliver, Louis S Pelfrey, Doug PK	6-2		29	Florida
9	Pelfrey, DougPK	5-11		24	Kentucky
80	Pickens, CarlWR	6-2	206	24	Tennessee
89	Query, JeffWR	6-0	165	27	Millikin
88	Rembert Reonie WR	6-5	200	28	-West Virginia
81	Robinson, PatrickWR Sadowski, TroyTE	5-8	176	25	Tennessee State
87	Sadowski Trov TF	6-5	250	29	Georgia
77	Sargent, KevinT	6-6			E. Washington
10	Schroeder, Jay QB	6-4	215	33	UCLA
74		6-6	330	24	East Carolina
	Scott, TomT				
90	Shaw, EricLB	6-3	248		Louisiana Tech
22	Simmons, Marcello CB	6-1			
84	Stegall, MiltWR	6-0			Miami (OH)
30	Stowers, DanS	6-2	200	24	New Mexico St.
96	Stubbs, DanielDE	6-4	264	29	Miami
49	Thomason, Jeff TE	6-4	233	25	Oregon
48	Thompson, Craig TE	6-2	244	25	N. Carolina A&
51	Tovar, SteveLB	6-3			Ohio State
40	Truit Gren I C	6-0			Penn State
83	Truitt, GregLS Turner, ElbertWR	5-11	165		Illinois
	Vinene Foregodus C	5-10	197		
34	Vinson, Fernandus S				
63	Walter, JoeT	6-7			Texas Tech
37	Wheeler, Leonard CB	5-11			Troy State
	Wilhelm, Erik QB	6-3			
4			20.40	26	Caluanda
94	Williams, AlfredLB	6-6			Colorado
	Williams, Alfred	6-0 6-4	191	24	Miami

DRAFTEES						
d.	name pos	ht	w!	college		
1	Wilkinson, Dan DT	6-3	315	Ohio State		
2	Scott, Darnay WR	6-1	186	San Diego St.		
3	Cothran, Jeff	6-2	231	Ohio State		
3	Shine, SteveLB	6-6	232	Northwestern		
4	Sawyer, Corey DB	5-11	165.	Florida State		
5	Pollard, Trent OT	6-3	304	Eastern Washington		
6	Von Delhoffen, Kimo DT	6-4	298	Boise State		
6	Reynolds, Jerry OT	6-6	315	UNLY		
	Stallins, Ramon DE		280	San Diego St.		



Considering all their problems, it's understandable why the Bengals didn't attempt to stretch many defenses. Wideout Jeff Query, their leading receiver, averaged 11.7 yards on his 56 catches. That is a tight end's number. The rookie tight end, Tony McGee, averaged 11.9 yards on his 44 catches. Carl Perkins, the closest thing Cinci has to a game-breaker, averaged 13.1 yards on 43, six of them for touchdowns. The Bengals have ambitions. They drafted Darnay Scott, the San Diego State burner, in the second round.

Wilkinson and Copeland alone should create an improvement in a pass rush that produced a mere 22 sacks. Those two may have to go it alone, at least figuratively. Tim Krumrie, a noble nose tackle for 11 seasons, is now 34 and still undersized. Mike Frier started at right end last year and George Hinkle backed him up. The Bengals put a third-round draft choice they got for Boomer Esiason to good use last year on Steve Tovar, who should be the middle linebacker in Peccatiello's 4-3. Left outside linebacker James Francis may restart his engine under the new coach. Alfred Williams predicted 19 sacks for himself and end-





ed up with four. Steve Shine of Northwestern is the primary rookie linebacker.

The top free agent is Louis Oliver, who had some big years for the Dolphins. He'll switch from free safety to strong, since free safety Darryl Williams was Cinci's leading tackler. He also returned an interception 97 yards for a touchdown. Mike Brim and Rod Jones are the incumbent cornerbacks. Florida State rookie Corey Sawyer, who plays bigger than his size, will challenge.

Doug Pelfrey kicked 24 of 31 field goals as a rookie and Lee Johnson averaged 43.9 yards with 24 punts landing inside the 20. The return game needs improvement.

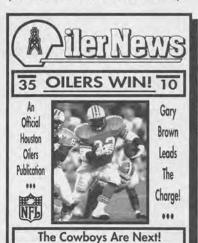
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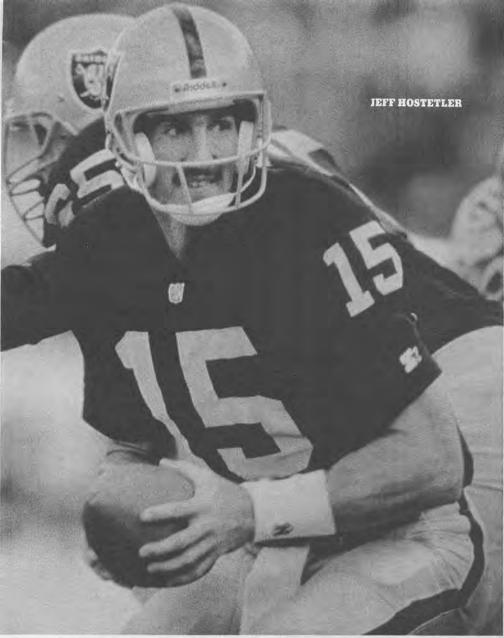
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AFCWAS

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

The Raiders have become a team of temporary measures. Even their domicile may be temporary. The Los Angeles earthquake damaged the Coliseum so severely that there will be 15,000 fewer seats available in the old place this season. The Raiders could end up being a gypsy football team. Baltimore, Oakland, Sacramento, and Orlando were among the places the franchise might have headed before opening day.

For years on the field, the Raiders settled for temporary quarterbacks. The current temp should stay a while. Once Jeff Hostetler balked at the strategists' attempt to make him over in the Raider image, the offense began moving and didn't stop until the playoff semifinals. Al Davis may not have his best Raider team, but thanks to Hoss he has his old vertical passing game back. The Raiders aren't kidding themselves. They know they don't have the kind of power running back who can provide a multi-dimensional attack. That's why Davis went to the financial wall to keep wide receiver Tim Brown after he signed a rich offer sheet with the Denver Broncos. Brown cost so much that it inhibited the Raider plans to acquire the runner they need.

The Raiders averaged 31 points per game in winning four of their last six regular-season games plus the playoff explosion against Denver. Yet in the two losses, they managed just 10 points against the woeful Cincinnati Bengals and were shut out, 28-0, in Green Bay. They could have used a viable running game on both days. Only Indianapolis and Tampa Bay were weaker on the ground. The best thing they had going for them on the ground was surprise rookie Greg Robinson, who led the team with 591 yards. His longest run was an un-Raiderlike 16 yards. Nick Bell, once the heavyweight hope, averaged under

three yards per carry. Davis is taking a chance with another flop, Harvey Williams, who broke Kansas City hearts. The draft brings Calvin Jones of Nebraska, who bears the look of another Cornhusker straight-ahead runner who doesn't make a dent in the pros.

That puts the offensive onus on Hostetler's arm, which produced 3,242 yards, 14 touchdowns, and the highest average gain per pass (7.74 yards) among AFC quarterbacks who threw at least 250 passes. After Brown, the second-most-productive receiver was tight end Ethan Horton, who signed with Washington. Alexander Wright, another flyer, included four touchdowns among his 27 catches. Rocket Ismail averaged a modest 13.6 yards on his 26 catches and his four carries from scrimmage netted minus yardage. Hostetler also had the longest run from scrimmage last year, 19 yards, although Napoleon McCallum broke a 26-yarder in his threetouchdown playoff game against Denver. It is Raider philosophy to emphasize a strength, and that is what is happening this season. The next offensive development should be the accelerated education of Ismail, who cost too much just to return kicks. The Rocket must get the ball more often if L.A. is to improve offensively. Hostetler already has another frightening collaborator in James Jett, the world class sprinter who led the NFL in per-catch average (23.4 yards) on his 33 receptions as a rookie.

The offensive line is overweighted on the left side. Tackle Gerald Perry and guard Steve

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING-Jaeger, 132 points on 27 extra points and 35 field goals...1st RUSHING—Robinson, 591 yards on 156 carries, 3.8

avg., 1 TD. . . 16th

PASSING-Hostetler, 236 of 419 attempts for 3,242 yards and 14 TDs. . . 6th

RECEIVING-Brown, 80 receptions for 1,180 yards, 14.8 avg., 7 TDs. . . T5th

INTERCEPTIONS-McDaniel, 5 for 87 yards, 17.4 avg.,

PUNTING-Gossett, 71 punts, 41.8 avg., longest 61

PUNT RETURNS-Brown, 40 for 465 yards, 11.6 avg., 1

KICKOFF RETURNS—Ismail, 25 for 605 yards, 24.2 average ... 1st

SACKS-Smith, 12.5 sacks... T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

31 Denver at Barcelona, Spain 7 At Dallas (N) August

13 At Pittsburgh (N)

20 At L.A. Rams (N)

27	At	Ho	Ist	on

	27	At Houston	
1994 SC	HED		1993 SCORES
September	5	At San Francisco (N)	=
	11	SEATTLE	27-23
	18	At Denver	23-20
	25	SAN DIEGO	23-30
October	2	OPEN DATE	
	9	At New England	
	16	At Miami	
	23	ATLANTA	
	30	HOUSTON	
November	6	At Kansas City (N)	9-24
	13	At L.A. Rams	
	20	NEW ORLEANS	
	27	PITTSBURGH	-
December	5	At San Diego (N)	12-7
	11	DENVER	33-30
	18	At Seattle (N)	17-13
	24	KANSAS CITY	20-31

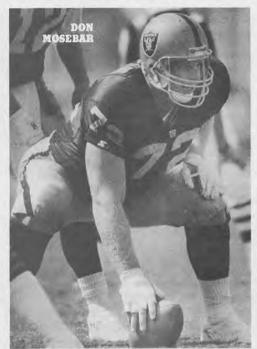
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STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

FCwest

Wisniewski had all-pro seasons. With right guard Max Montoya turned 38, Davis signed huge Kevin Gogan from Dallas to play right guard. Bruce Wilkerson is the right tackle and Don Mosebar the center.

With Howie Long retired, the expectation is that sack specialist Anthony Smith, who nailed passers 12½ times, will become the full-time

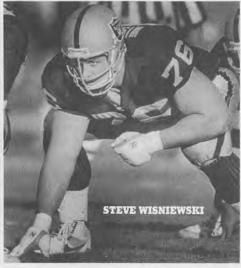




left end. The major need is to keep the mountainous tackle, Chester McGlockton, healthy. Nolan Harrison is a solid tackle partner for McGlockton and Greg Townsend is the veteran right end. Rookie tackle Austin Robbins of North Carolina is a run-plugger.

It was a defensive draft, with linebackers the first two picks. Rob Frederickson of Michigan State, who has savvy and speed, was No. 1. Big James Folston of Northeast Louisiana, who can play like a down lineman, was No. 2. Folston and Smith could be a wicked passrush combination. Winston Moss and Aaron Wallace are incumbents from a linebacking corps that is likely to be shaken up. Albert Lewis, the long-time Kansas City Chief, was signed as a free agent. He combines with Lionel Washington to give the Raiders two 33year-old cornerbacks (34 in October) on the right side. Pro Bowler Terry McDaniel is the left corner. The expectation is that Patrick Bates will move into the strong-safety spot alongside free safety Eddie Anderson.





The Raiders attempted 44 field goals and Jeff Jaeger made 35 of them, tying an NFL record. His 132 points won the scoring championship. Jeff Gossett averaged 41.8 yards and dropped 19 punts inside the 20. Ismail on kickoff returns and Brown on punt returns are explosive runners.

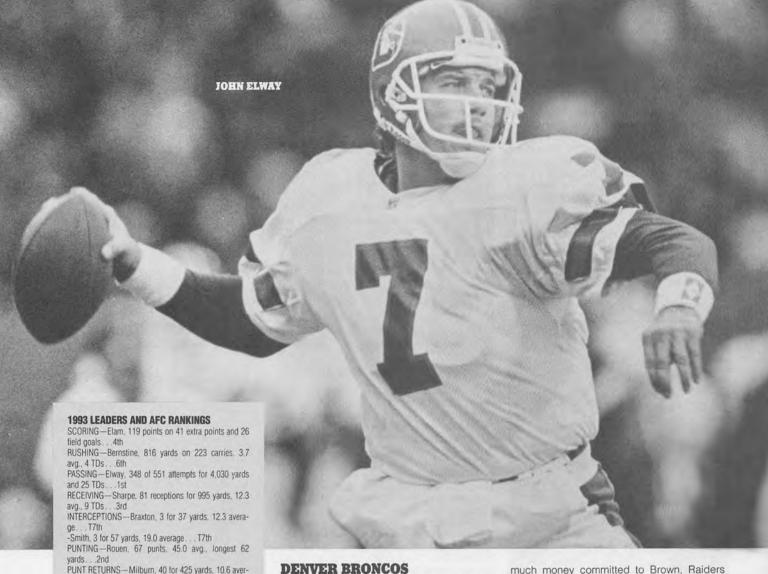
Of the changes made by the Raiders, two of the most significant may be in the coaching staff. John Fox was hired away from San Diego to replace Gunther Cunningham as defensive coordinator. That change came a month after the Raider defense was chewed up by Buffalo in the second half of a playoff game the Raiders could have won. Another Charger coach, Jack Reilly, was hired for the offensive staff. He has collegiate experience as an offensive coordinator.

KALDERS	W.E.	LER	TATA	226	DIEN	
name	pos	ht	wt.	age	college	
Anderson, Eddie	S	6-1	210	31	Fort Valley	
Bates, Patrick	S	6-3	220	24	Texas A&M	
Bell, Nick	RB	6-2	250	26	lowa	
Biekert Grea	LB	6-2	235	25	Colorado	

23	Dales, Fall IUA	0.0	550	64	TENES MONIVI
38	Bell, NickRB	6-2	250	26	lowa
54	Biekert, Greg LB.	6-2	235	25	Colorado
97	Broughton, Willie DT	6-5	285	30	Miami
81	Brown, Tim WR	6-0	195	28	Notre Dame
56	Bruce, Aundray DE	6-5	260	28	Auburn
92	Collons, FerricDT	6-6	295	25	California
31	Dixon, Rickey	5-11	185	28	Oklahoma
46		6-0	190	26	North Carolina
	Dorn, Torin CB			39	USC
11	Evans, Vince QB Fulcher, David LB	6-2	215		
45			245	30	Arizona State
83	Gault, WillieWR	6-1	175		Tennessee
87	Glover, AndrewTE	6-6	245	27	Grambling
66	Gogan, KevinG	6-7	325	30	Washington
7	Gossett, JeffP	6-2	195	37	Eastern Illinois
74	Harrison, NolanDT	6-5	285	25	Indiana
80	Hobbs, DarylWR	6-2	180	26	Pacific
12	Hobert, Billy Joe. OB	6-3	230	23	Washington
20	Hoskins, DerrickS	6-2	205	24	Southern Miss
15	Hostetler, Jeff QB	6-3	220	33	West Virginia
86	Ismail, Raghib WR	5-10	180	25	Notre Dame
18	Jaeger, JeffK	5-11	190	30	Washington
82	Jett, JamesWR	5-10	165	24	West Virginia
52	Jones, Mike LB	6-1	230	25	Missouri
85	Jordan, CharlesWR	5-10	175	25	Long Beach City
23	Jordan, Randy RB	5-10	205	24	North Carolina
25	Land, Dan CB	6-0	195	29	Albany State
79	Lanier, KenT	6-3		35	Florida State
24	Lewis, Albert CB	6-2	195	34	Grambling
41	McCallum, Napoleon RB	6-2	225	31	Navy
36	McDaniel, Terry CB	5-10	180	29	Tennessee
91	McGlockton, Chester DT	6-4	315	25	Clemson
21	Montgomery, Tyrone RB	6-0	190	24	Mississippi
65	Montoya, Max	6-5	295	38	UCLA
72		6-6	300	33	USC
	Mosebar, Don				
99	Moss, Winston LB	6-3	240	29	Miami
64	Peat, Todd	6-2	305	30	Northern Illinois
71	Perry, GeraldT	6-6	300	30	Southern
96	Powers, Warren DT	6-7	285		Maryland
28	Robinson, Greg RB	5-10	200	25	NE Louisiana
78	Skrepenak, GregG	6-6	305	24	Michigan
94	Smith, Anthony DE	6-3	260	27	Arizona
39	Smith, Kevin TE	6-4	255	25	UCLA
35	Smith, Steve	6-1	240	30	Penn State
77	Stephens, RichT	6-7	300	29	Tulsa
93	Townsend, Greg DE	6-3	270	33	TCU
37	Trapp, James CB	6-0	180	25	Clemson
67	Turk, Dan	6-4	290	32	Wisconsin
51	Wallace, AaronLB	6-3	240	27	Texas A&M
48	Washington, Lionel . CB	6-0		34	Tulane
68	Wilkerson, BruceT	6-5	295	30	Tennessee
	Williams, HarveyRB	6-2	225		LSU
	Williams, Jamie TE	6-4		34	Nebraska
76	Wisniewski, SteveG	6-4	285	27	Penn State
89	Wright, AlexanderWR	6-0		27	Auburn
66	Wright, Steve T		290	35	Northern Iowa
U.S.	ringelli Oloso iliinii I	0.0	200	40	The state of the s

DRAFTEES

name	pos	ht.	wt	college
Fredrickson, Rob	LB	6-3	242	Michigan State
Folston, James	LB	6-2	235	NE Louisiana
Jones, Calvin	RB	5-11	210	Nebraska
Patterson, Roosevelt	.OT	6-4	220	Alabama
Holmberg, Rob	LB	6-3	214	Penn State
	Fredrickson, Rob Folston, James Jones, Calvin Robbins, Austin Patterson, Roosevelt	Fredrickson, Rob. LB Folston, James LB Jones, Calvin RB Robbins, Austin DT	Fredrickson, Rob. LB 6-3 Folston, James LB 6-2 Jones, Calvin RB 5-11 Robbins, Austin DT 6-6 Patterson, Roosevelt OT 6-4	Fredrickson, Rob. LB 6-3 242 Folston, James. LB 6-2 235 Jones, Calvin RB 5-11 210 Robbins, Austin DT 6-6 287 Patterson, Roosevelt OT 6-4 220



In Denver, they consider owner Jerry Jones of the Cowboys a Pat Bowlen wannabe. When it comes to an owner wheeling and dealing in the player market, Bowlen bows to no tycoon. The Broncos were the most active team in free agency last season, and this spring there was no letup in the makeover. Bowlen, with aide Bob Ferguson advising him, was a twoplatoon deal-maker, changing the look of his team on defense as well as offense. The tinkering paid off on both sides of the ball in 1993. The offense improved by 111 points, leading the AFC with 373 points. The defense allowed 45 fewer points. Where there wasn't a big payoff was in the won-lost record: 8-8 in 1992, 9-7 in '93. The Broncos made the playoffs but they were quickly blown right out.

So Bowlen got out his check book once more. Ferguson and coach Wade Phillips convinced him Denver needed a gamebreaking wide receiver, so a fat offer sheet (which included a no-trade clause) was dispatched to the Raiders' Tim Brown. The Broncos have a thing about Brown, who kills them. He signed, but the Raiders matched the offer. The big money and the no-trade clause painted L.A. into a corner, however, for with so much money committed to Brown, Raiders owner Al Davis couldn't afford a big-time running back. And Bowlen, having failed to keep Brown, then went down his list and made a big offer to Anthony Miller, San Diego's gamebreaker. Miller signed it and the Chargers declined to match. Now John Elway can throw to a Pro Bowl wide receiver, Miller, as well as to a Pro Bowl tight end, Shannon Sharpe. For good measure, the Broncos traded with Atlanta to acquire another speedy wide receiver, Mike Pritchard. Elway has never smiled a toothier grin.

Since Brown was still on Bowlen's mind, the Broncos made some drastic changes in their secondary to make it more difficult for the Raider star to tear it apart as he has in the past. They traded with Philadelphia for cornerback Ben Smith and signed former Detroit cornerback Ray Crockett as a free agent. Both are physical players. "We don't expect to find anyone who can run with Brown and James Jett, so we're going to try something else. These are in-your-face corners. We're going to try to knock the hell out of them at the line of scrimmage.

Even without the added help at wide receiver, Elway led the AFC in passing last year. He

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

SACKS-Fletcher, 13.5 sacks. . . 3rd

average...unranked

age 5th

31 L.A. Raiders at Barcelona, Spain July 6 ATLANTA (N) August

KICKOFF RETURNS-Russell, 18 for 374 yards, 20.8

12 At San Francisco (N)

21 At Dallas (N)

	25	ARIZONA (N)	
1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	SAN DIEGO (N)	34-17
	11	At N.Y. Jets	26-20
	18	L.A. RAIDERS	20-23
	26	At Buffalo (N)	
October	2		
	9	At Seattle	17-9
	17	KANSAS CITY (N)	27-21
	23	At San Diego	10-13
	30	CLEVELAND	29-14
November	6	At L.A. Rams	
	13	SEATTLE	28-17
	20	ATLANTA	
	27	CINCINNATI	
December	4	At Kansas City	
	11	At L.A. Raiders	
	17	At San Francisco	
	24	NEW ORLEANS	

threw 25 touchdown passes, accumulated 4,030 yards, and had a miserly interception ratio of 1.8. His 63.2 completion percentage also led the conference. In Miller, Pritchard, and Sharpe, Elway has three receivers who caught a total of 239 passes and 23 touchdowns among them a year ago. Miller caught 84. Sharpe 81, and Pritchard 74. Elway may have to use two footballs this season. When he wants to go shorter. Elway has running backs Rod Bernstine, who caught 44 passes, and Glyn Milburn, who caught 38. The running game, 18th in the league in '93, should benefit from all the worry the passing attack will give opponents. Bernstine gained 816 yards and averaged 3.7 yards per carry a year ago. Robert Delpino, who can be a valuable third-down back, scored eight touchdowns and gained 445 yards. Milburn has more explosion than the other backs but he fumbles too much.

The three new offensive linemen the Broncos added last season had a great deal to do with the improvement in the attack. Gary Zimmerman is a topnotch left tackle. Brian Habib upgraded right guard, and if Don Maggs can

SHARPE

who were phased out due to age and high salaries, strong safety Dennis Smith and inside linebacker Karl Mecklenburg, made the Pro Bowl. The first three draft choices were defensive players. The secondary will be completely changed with Crockett and Ben Smith at the corners, Steve Atwater moved over from free safety to the strong side, and Rondell Jones moving up to Atwater's former free-safety position. The Broncos have their fingers crossed about Smith, who has a history of knee injuries.

Simon Fletcher, who had at least part of a sack in each of the last seven games and finished with 131/2, was voted the team's most

recover from the injured list at right tackle, it could free Russell Freeman to play left guard. Keith Kartz is the center and Doug Widell is a versatile utility man. When the Broncs use a double tight end, which is often, Cedric Tillman is the main blocker.

The Broncos finished next-to-last in the NFL in pass defense. It could have been worse since they didn't have to face Elway. The strange thing is that two Denver defenders Croel hasn't lived up to his rookie promise. Ex-Seahawk Dave Wyman had a productive season. Rookies Allen Aldridge of Houston or Keith Burns of Oklahoma State could battle for a starting job. The best thing that could happen to the defense is for Dan Williams, who battled injuries in his rookie year, to have a big season at right end, where Shane Dronett played well. A trade brought Ted Washington from San Francisco to play nose tackle.

Jason Elam produced as advertised as the rookie kicker, connecting on 26 of 36 field goals. First-year punter Tom Rouen averaged 45 yards. Milburn averaged 10.6 yards per punt return and Derek Russell 20.8 yards per kickoff return.

BRONCOS VETERAN ROSTER

GLYN	MILBUR	1/-	
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the wor	r	aut due	

	right outside linebacker. On the left side Mike
	ROBERT DELPINO
100	

ht wt age college 58 Alexander Flijah 18 6-2 230 24 Kansas State Atwater, Steve Texas A&M 29 24 Bernstine, Rod. 6-3 238 Ronner Melvin 6-3 207 Baylor 83 WR Bradford, Ronnie 5-10 CB CB 5-11 185 30 No. Dakota State Braxton, Tyrone. 5-8 173 26 Campbell, Jeff., WR Colorado Crockett, Ray... DB 5-9 181 Baylor Croel, Mike. 6-3 231 Delpino, Robert. RR 6-0 205 29 Missouri 6-0 175 28 UNLV Dimry, Charles... Donahue, Mitch CB LB 6-2 254 Wyoming Dronett, Shane DE 6-6 275 23 Maryland Drozdov Darren 6-3 280 25 Elam, Jason ... 192 Hawaii 6-3 215 34 6-4 250 26 QB Stanford Elway, John 88 Evans, Jerry Fletcher, Simon TF Toledo 6-6 240 Houston LB Georgia Tech Freeman, Russell. 6-7 290 25 299 30 210 28 Habib, Brian. 6-7 Washington Hall, Darryl Washington Hampel, Olaf. No College Johnson, Reggie Jones, Rondell ... 6-2 256 26 6-2 210 23 Florida State North Carolina Kartz, Keith. Kimbrough, Tony WR 6-2 192 185 24 27 Jackson State CB 5-11 Lang, Le-Lo. Washington 33 6-3 230 California Lucas, Tim. Lynn, Anthony. 6-3 230 Texas Tech RB UCLA Maddox. Tommy OB. 6-4 205 23 Maggs, Don., 6-5 290 33 Tulane Mecklenburg, Karl 34 Minnesola 6-2 279 25 6-7 280 28 Meeks, Bob. Auburn Melander, Jon. Minnesota Milburn, Glyn.. Stanford Miller, Anthony WR 5-11 189 29 Tennessee 6-3 250 26 Mills, Jeff. LB Nebraska 6-2 213 26 6-4 265 25 5-9 182 28 Moore, Shawn. Virginia Oshodin, Willie DE Villanova Pool, David CB Carson-Newman WR 5-11 185 24 WR 5-11 180 25 RB 6-1 215 26 CB 5-11 174 25 Colorado State Primus. Greg Pritchard, Mike Rivers, Reggie. SW Texas St. Boise State Robinson, Frank 6-4 265 Idaho Robinson, Jeff. WR 6-0 185 26 ...P 6-3 215 26 Wis-Stevens Pt. 81 Rose, Barry ... Colorado 16 Rouen, Tom 195 6-6 265 27 6-2 230 26 Scrafford, Kirk Sharpe, Shannon. Montana TE Savannah State Smith, Ben., Georgia ...S 6-3 200 6-3 350 35 25 30 Smith. Dennis HSC Temple Taylor, Alphonso Taylor, Kitrick... 6-2 204 24 6-4 295 26 Tillman, Cedric. WR Alcom State Washington, Ted Williams, Dan NT Louisville Toledo Widell, Dave, 29 6-6 292 6-2 248 Boston College LB Stanford Wyman, Dave Zimmerman, Gary, 6-6 294 33 Oregon DRAFTEES

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The Chiefs didn't stand pat after making it to the Super Bowl semifinals. They couldn't afford to: Joe Montana's biological clock is ticking. They improved their secondary by signing the Giants' veteran cornerback Mark Collins. They strengthened the defensive line with the addition of free-agent tackle Tony Casillas of Dallas. And they bolstered the running game and wide-receiver corps through the draft. The Chiefs also improved Montana's chances of surviving his 16th NFL season by tearing out the artificial turf in Arrowhead Stadium and replacing it with real grass. Montana suffered a mild concussion during the AFC championship game in Buffalo when he hit his head on Rich Stadium's artificial turf.

Kansas City is putting most, if not all, of its eggs in Montana's basket again. The great quarterback is 38, but he still finished second in the AFC passing ratings last year in the Chiefs' new San Francisco style offense. At this stage of his career, Montana is judged by his presence, not by his statistics. With him in the huddle, the Chiefs feel they can reach the heights. The new offense changed almost everything about the team a year ago. The Chiefs ran the ball 445 times, the fewest since 1987. They passed it 490 times, the most since 1988. They completed 287 passes, the third-highest total in club history. The tight ends caught 55 passes, the most since 1976. The running backs caught 95 passes, the

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING-Lowery, 106 points on 37 extra points and 23 field goals . . . 7th

RUSHING-Allen, 764 yards on 206 carries, 3.7 avg.,

12 TDs. .7th PASSING—Montana, 181 of 298 attempts for 2,144

yards and 13 TDs. . 2nd RECEIVING—Davis, 52 receptions for 909 yards, 17.5 avg., 7 TD... T20th

INTERCEPTIONS-Lewis, 6 for 61 yards, 10.2 avera-

PUNTING-Barker, 76 punts, 42.6 avg., longest 59

PUNT RETURNS-Carter, 27 for 247 yards, 9.1 avera-

KICKOFF RETURNS-Hughes, 14 for 266 yards, 19.0 average. unranked

SACKS—Smith, 15.0 sacks 1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

31 HOUSTON (N) August

6 Minnesota at Tokyo, Japan (N)

12 At Washington (N) 22 CHICAGO (N)

26 At Buffalo (N)

1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	At New Orleans	
	11	SAN FRANCISCO	
	18	At Atlanta (N)	
	25	L.A. Rams	
October	2	OPEN DATE	
	9	At San Diego	17-14
	17	At Denver (N)	21-27
	23	SEATTLE	34-24
	30	At Buffalo	23-7
November	6	L.A. RAIDERS (N)	24-9
	13		28-24
	20	CLEVELAND	
	27		31-16
December	4	DENVER	15-7
	12		10-30
	18		.,0-30
	24	At L.A. Raiders	31-20



most in the Marty Schottenheimer era. Offensive coordinator Paul Hackett, who installed the attack, predicts better things this season. "We know each other better and we understand what to expect," said Hackett. "That's a function of time.

It won't hurt that the right side of the offensive line now has a year's experience. Right guard Will Shields started as a rookie and right tackle Ricky Siglar, who kicked around with three NFL teams, got his first starting assignment. "Shields was a revelation," said Schottenheimer. "He came to us as a thirdround draft choice and played like a firstrounder." The Chiefs moved quickly to re-sign Montana's principal bodyguard, left tackle John Alt. Dave Szott is the left guard and Tim Grunhard the center. They allowed Montana to be sacked just 12 times.

Marcus Allen had a wonderful introductory year in Kansas City, leading the team in rushing with 764 yards, catching 34 passes, scoring 15 touchdowns, and going to the Pro Bowl. But Allen is 34 and Schottenheimer is realistic. He drafted Greg Hill of Texas A&M on the first round. Hill played only seven games as a senior but averaged 5.7 yards per carry. Even if he shares time with Allen, he'll help. In the second round the Chiefs selected Miami's 247-pound fullback, Donnell Bennett, a big-time blocker and a superb receiver. He'll challenge starter Kimble Anders.

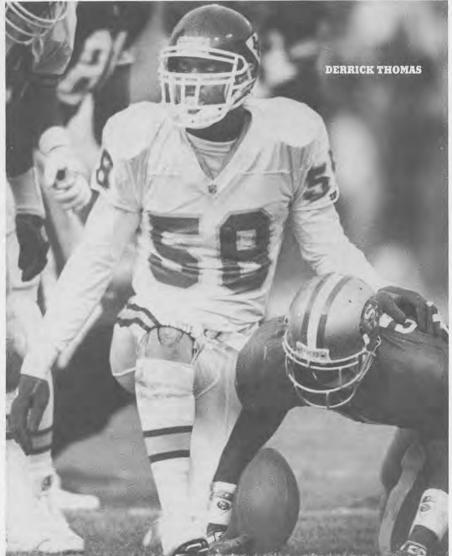
Willie Davis had the highest per-catch average in the NFL, 17.5 yards, for receivers who caught 50 passes or more. He had seven touchdowns among his 52 receptions. J.J. Birden caught 51 with four touchdowns. The draft brings Lake Dawson, a big-play possession receiver from Notre Dame, and Tulsa's Chris Penn, who caught 105 passes for 1,578 yards and 12 touchdowns as a senior. He has everything except speed. Keith Cash pushed Jonathon Hayes aside at tight end with his spectacular performances in the playoffs.

The Chiefs lost three defensive starterscornerback Albert Lewis, free safety Kevin Ross, and linebacker Lonnie Marts-to free agency. "The fans had better get used to free agency," said club president Carl Peterson. "The players will probably be with one team only about four seasons from now on." The erratic Dale Carter (one great play, one poor play) will replace Lewis opposite Collins and David Whitmore is a possibility as Ross's successor. Bracey Walker, a rookie from North Carolina, could make a bid for either safety job. Derrick Thomas moves back to linebacker after an unsuccessful experiment with him at end. He was overrun so often in the AFC championship game that he sat out most of the second half. Tracy Rogers and Tracy Simien are the other starting linebackers.

Neil Smith, the left end, led the NFL with 15 sacks. Thomas had eight, but he could inflate that figure now that he's back as a blitzing linebacker. Darren Mickell replaces Thomas at right end. Casillas replaces Dan Saleau-

mua at right tackle alongside run-stopper Joe Phillips. Schottenheimer thinks he got a steal when he was able to draft Arizona's Outland Trophy winner Rob Waldrop on the fifth round.





The new line should control opposing power running games more effectively.

Nick Lowery is 38 now but he keeps on going. He kicked 23 of 29 field goals, although he tried only one over 50 yards. Carter is a dangerous punt returner.

CHIEFS VETERAN ROSTER

5 Anuiar Louis

pos ht wt age college

P 6-2 215 28 Htab State

5	Aguiar, LouieP	6-2	215	28	Utan State	
56	Ale. ArnoldLB	6-2	230	24	UCLA	
51	Alexander, KenLB	6-3	254	23	Florida State	
32	Allen, MarcusRB	6-2	210	34	USC	
76	Alt, JohnT	6-8	307	32	lowa	
38	Anders, KimbleFB	5-11	221	28	Houston	
93	Anderson, DunstanDE	6-4	260	24	Tulsa	
50	Anderson, ErickLB	6-1	236	26	Michigan	
			200	26	Jackson State	
82	Barnett, TimWR	6-1				
87	Bartrum, Mike TE	6-4	234	24	Marshall Danting Coope	
30	Bayless, Martin	6-2	219	32	Bowling Green	
88	Birden, J.JWR	5-9	165	29	Oregon	
14	Blundin, Matt OB	6-6	233	25	Virginia	
69	Booker, VaughnDE	6-5	290	26	Cincinnati	
67	Boyd, LarryDE	6-2	285	23	Arizona	
34	Carter, DaleCB	6-1	188	25	Tennessee	
89	Cash, KeithTE	6-4	240	25	Texas	
99	Casillas, TonyDT	6-3	273	31	Oklahoma	
22	Cobb. TrevorRB	5-9	190	24	Rice	
24	Collins, Mark CB	5-10	190	30	Cal-Fullerton	
84	Davis, WillieWR	6-0	172	27	Central Arkansas	
6	DeGraffenreid, Allan WR	6-3	200	24	Ohio State	
23	Dickerson, RonRB	6-0	211	23	Arkansas	
2	Elliott, LinK	6-0	182	26	Texas Tech	
59	Fields, JaimeLB	5-11	230	24	Washington	
91	Freese, Jerry LB	6-2	221	24	NE Oklahoma	
60	Gaddy, RobertT	6-4	295	23	Alcorn State	
49	Gay, MattS	5-11	180	24	Kansas	
74	Graham, DerrickT	6-4	305	27	Appalachian St.	
22	Grow, MontyS	6-3	214	23	Florida	
61	Grunhard, TimC	6-2	299	26	Notre Dame	
11	Hakal, Chris QB		230	25	William & Mary	
57	Harris, BernardoLB	6-2	238	23	North Carolina	
83	Hughes, DananWR	6-1	201	24	lowa	
91	Johnson, Jimmie TE	6-2	248	28	Howard	
65	Knapp, Lindsay OL	6-6	280	24	Notre Dame	
			290	23	Cal-Davis	
62	Kwarta, BretG	6-2		38	Dartmouth	
8	Lowery, NickK	6-4	207	27		
95	Ma'afala, NickDT	6-2	295		Hawaii	
64	Martin, EmersonG	6-2	293	23	Hampton	
71	McCullough, Russ T	6-10	315	26	Missouri	
77	McDaniels, Pellom DE	6-3	278	26	Oregon State	
92	Mickell, DarrenDT	6-4	280	24	Florida	
42	Mincy, CharlesS	5-11	197	25	Washington	
9	Montgomery, FredWR	6-0	183	23	New Mexico	
19	Montana, Joe QB	6-2	205	38	Notre Dame	
96	Newton, TimDT	6-0	269	31	Florida ·	
75	Phillips, JoeDT	6-5	300	31	SMU	
39	Pickens, Bruce CB	5-11	190	26		
31	Randall, Brian CB	6-0	185	23	Delaware State	
52	Rogers, TracyLB	6-2	241	27	Fresno State	
97	Saleaumua, DanDT	6-0	300	30	Arizona State	
68	Shields, WillG	6-2	295	23	Nebraska	
55	Shufelt, PeteLB	6-2	241	25	UTEP	
68	Sinlar Ricky T	6-7	304	28	San Jose State	
54	Simien, TracyLB	6-1	250		Texas Christian	
90	Smith. NeilDE	6-4	273		Nebraska	
04	Clarkers John DD	04	DIE	20	MM Lauleiana	

	D	R	AFT	EES		
d.	name	005	ht	wt	college	
1	Hill. Greg	RB	6-1	207	Texas A&M	
2	Bennett. Donnell	RB	6-0	247	Miami	
3	Dawson, Lake	WR	6-1	202	Notre Dame	
3	Penn. Chris			193	Tulsa	
4	Walker, Bracey			185	North Carolina	
5	Burton, James			180	Fresno State	
5	Waldrop, Rob	DT	6-2	274	Arizona	
6	Daigle, Anthony			195	Fresno State	
7	Matthews. Steve				Memphis State	
7	Greene, Tracy			258	Grambling	

...G 6-4 290 27 CB 5-10 170 27

...S 5-11 197 25 LB 6-3 242 27 .FB 5-11 257 25

OL QB 6-2 290 25 6-5 295 25 6-1 219 24

6-1 213 24 6-0 232 27

CB 6-3 186 31

NW Louisiana

San Jose State

Central Oklahoma

Pennsylvania Pittsburgh

Penn State

Alabama Indiana

Howard Stephen F. Austin

Mississippi

Stephens, John

Szott, Dave...

Taylor, Jay.

Terry, Doug...... Thomas. Derrick.

Thompson, Ernie...

Traylor. Keith... Valerio, Joe.... Van Pelt. Alex.

Villa, Danny ..

Watson, Tim.

Whitmore, David . Wilburn, Barry.....

79 27

73 10 Stephens, Michael...



1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Kasay, 98 points on 29 extra points and 23 field goals. . .9th

RUSHING—Warren, 1,072 on 273 carries, 3.9 avg., 7 TDs 3rd

PASSING—Mirer, 274 of 486 attempts for 2,833 yards and 12 TDs...14th

RECEIVING—Blades, 80 receptions for 945 yards, 11.8 avg., 3 TDs...5th

INTERCEPTIONS—Robinson, 9 for 80 yards, 8.9 avera-

PUNTING—Tuten, 90 punts, 44.5 average, longest 64

PUNT RETURNS—Martin, 32 for 270 yards, 8.4 average...10th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Bates, 30 for 603 yards, 20.1 average. . .7th

SACKS-Sinclair, 8.0 sacks . . . T12th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

- August 5 At Indianapolis (N)
 - 13 TAMPA BAY (N)
 - 20 MINNESOTA (N)
 - 26 At San Francisco (N)

HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
4	At Washington	
11	At L.A. Raiders	23-27
18	SAN DIEGO	31-14
25	PITTSBURGH	16-6
2	At Indianapolis	
9	DENVER	9-17
16	OPEN DATE	
23	At Kansas City	24-34
30	At San Diego	12-18
6	CINCINNATI	19-10
13	At Denver	17-28
20	TAMPA BAY	
27	KANSAS CITY	16-31
4	And the second second second second	
11	At Houston	14-24
18	L.A. RAIDERS (N).	13-17
24	At Cleveland	22-5
	4 11 18 25 2 9 16 23 30 6 13 20 27 4 11 18	4 At Washington 11 At L.A. Raiders 18 SAN DIEGO 25 PITTSBURGH 2 At Indianapolis 9 DENVER 16 OPEN DATE 23 At Kansas City 30 At San Diego 6 CINCINNATI 13 At Denver 20 TAMPA BAY 27 KANSAS CITY 18 INDIANAPOLIS 11 At Houston 18 L.A. RAIDERS (N)



SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

The Seahawks tried to buy their way into the playoffs this season, which isn't a bad idea, but they learned that free agency works both ways. Seattle fired some of the opening shots of the free-agent season when it signed two Pro Bowlers, cornerback Nate Odomes and offensive tackle Howard Ballard, both of Buffalo. Odomes figured to strengthen the secondary and Ballard, known as "The House," is a blocker who can lead the Seahawks' improved running game.

Then the free-agent losses started coming in. The loss of right offensive tackle Andy Heck to Chicago was expected, considering the Seahawks' pursuit of Ballard. But the coming of Odomes was followed by the departure of corner Dwayne Harper to San Diego. The Seahawks then lost another offensive lineman, left guard Darrick Brilz, to Cincinnati. That was followed by a shock, the defection to Pittsburgh of veteran fullback John L. Williams.

It's conceivable that Seattle could be in worse shape than it started. What may balance off the losses is the development of second-year quarterback Rick Mirer. It appears

that Bill Walsh was on target when, as an NBC commentator broadcasting Notre Dame games three years ago, he predicted that Mirer would be a great pro. If there was any surprise, it was that Mirer was such an immediate hit. He became the first rookie quarterback since Joe Ferguson of Buffalo to start all of his team's games. Only Ferguson in 1973 and Jim Plunkett of New England in 1971 accomplished that feat since the merger of the NFL and the former American Football League in 1970.

Mirer set three NFL rookie records in the bargain. He attempted more passes (486), completed more of them (274), and gained more passing yards (2,833) than any freshman quarterback before him. He also ran for more yards than all but two Seahawks, finishing just 28 yards behind runner-up Williams. Amazingly strong and durable, he missed only 28 of 1,019 plays, 23 in a game against New England when he was poked in the eye and suffered vision problems.

More impressive is what he did for his team psychologically. With a mere babe at the controls, the Seahawks improved their won-lost

record from 2-14 to 6-10. Seattle offense was an oxymoron in 1992. Mirer led two fourthquarter comebacks, a 14-play drive against New England that was culminated by his oneyard pass for the winning touchdown with 25 seconds to play and a 13-play, 90-yard drive which tied Phoenix before the Cardinals finally won in overtime. Mirer also won both ends of his home-and-home series with the NFL's other wonder rookie quarterback, Drew Bledsoe of the Patriots.

Mirer's progress may be determined by the offensive line, which has been reshuffled for the fourth time in four seasons. Ballard replaces Heck at right tackle and Mitch Frerotte moves into Brilz's spot at left guard. Frerotte, another ex-Bill signed as a free agent last year, missed the entire season due to a neck injury. Not only is the injury healed, but Frerotte bulked himself up to 286 pounds, 16 over his previous weight. "I'm in the best shape of my career," he said. Ray Roberts is a potential star at left tackle. He and 36-year-old center Ray Donaldson played every down a year ago. Since Donaldson is entering his 16th season, the Seahawks are glad Joe Tofflemire, who missed all of '93 with an aching shoulder, is ready to play again. The draft brings the talented and versatile Kevin Mawae of LSU, who can play every position on the

ROBERT BLACKMON

line. Their mission for 1994 is to reduce the number of times Mirer is sacked. He went down 47 times as a rookie.

The Seahawks improved their rushing by 419 yards (26 yards per game) and finished fourth in the NFL. That was with their No. 1 man. Chris Warren, sidelined for the last two games after running for 1,072 yards in the first 14. He finished third in the AFC, just 16 yards out of second. With Williams gone, Warren's pass-catching ability will be featured more often. During Warren's absence, ex-Patriot Jon Vaughn stepped in and produced 131 yards in a victory over Pittsburgh. The Seahawks had a 100-yard rusher in each of their last three games. Low-slung Lamar Smith, voted the University of Houston's Most Valuable Player despite his missing half the season, will contend with journeyman Tracy Johnson for the fullback job.

Brian Blades broke Steve Largent's singleseason record by catching 80 passes. He is consistent. This was his third season with 70 or more receptions. His per-catch average was just 11.8 yards, but that was because Mirer's time in the pocket was limited. Ex-Cowboy Kelvin Martin had 57 catches for a 14-yard average and five touchdowns. There is not much depth to the receiver corps, so an accelerated development of the speedy Michael Bates is needed. A special-teams' ace. the most prolific in team history, Bates had 22 tackles, all but two solo. He also downed punts at the 1-, 4-, and 2-yard lines, forced two fumbles and recovered both, and had five tackles inside the 5-yard line on kickoff returns. He averaged 20.1 yards himself per kickoff. The tight end, Ferrell Edmunds, caught 24 passes, two for touchdowns.

There are some major changes in the defensive line, which will be welcome news to Cortez Kennedy, the superb tackle who was frustrated by attempting to get by two or three blockers on every play. The No. 1 draft choice is Sam Adams of Texas A&M, an impressive talent who just turned 21. He could be used at end or tackle. End Michael Sinclair, who led the team with eight sacks despite missing the last seven games, is back. Ends Michael McCrary and Antonio Edwards spent their rookie seasons playing in the nickel defense. McCrary had four sacks and Edwards three.

Linebacker Terry Wooden returned from a knee injury not quite like his old self but still capable of big plays. Rod Stephens beat out Dave Wyman at middle linebacker to add speed and more athletic ability. The worry is that Rufus Porter, an outstanding blitzer, won't recover fully from his Achilles' tendon injury. Dennis Murphy filled in last season but he will get challenges from youngsters Dean Wells and Bob Spitulski.

There should be two new starting cornerbacks, with second-year pro Carlton Gray



joining Odomes. Gray had three interceptions as a rookie despite missing seven games with an ankle injury. Patrick Hunter had four interceptions and is one of the better NFL corners, but his alcohol problem was so severe that he can't be counted upon. All-pro free safety Eugene Robinson led the league in interceptions with nine and led the Seahawks with 111 tackles. He was also voted the NFL's "Man of the Year" for his off-the-field activiities. Robert Blackmon is a fixture at strong safety.

John Kasay kicked 23 of 28 field goals, including seven of more than 45 yards. His value should increase with the new rule pushing the kickoff spot back to the 30-yard line. His average hang time is 4.33 seconds. With Bates covering those kicks, Seattle may benefit from the rule more than any other team. Rick Tuten had an outstanding year with a 44.5yard average and 21 punts inside the 20.

SEAHAWKS VETERAN ROSTER

				tru:		
39	Allred, Brian		5-10	175	25	Sacramento St.
75	Ballard, Howard	T	6-6	336	31	Alabama A&M
15	Barrett, Reggie,	WR	6-3	215	25	UTEP
81	Bates, Michael	WA:	5-10	189	:25	Arizona
25	Blackmon, Robert		6-0	197	27	Baylor
69	Blackshear, Jeff		6-6	315	25	NE Louisiana
89	Blades, Brian	WR	5-11	189	28	Miami
51	Brandon, David	10	6-4	230	29	Memphis State
			6-5	281	34	Clemson
77	Bryant, Jeft					
79	Childs, Jason		6-4	285	25	North Dakota
50	Davis, Anthony			231	25	Utah
53	Donaldson, Ray,		6-3	300	36	Georgia
82	Edmunds Ferrell		6-6	254	29	Maryland
67	Edwards, Antonio		6-3	270	24	Valdosta State
59	Frerotte, Mitch	_ G	6-3	286	29	Penn State
18	Gelbaugh, Starr		6-3	207	32	Maryland
54	Gordon, Steve		6-3	279	25	California
7	Graham, Jett		6-5	220	28	Long Beach St.
28	Gray, Carlton	CR	6-0	191	23	UCLA
87	Green Paul		6-3	230	28	USC
76			6-6	291	29	
	Hitchgock, Bill					
27	Hunter, Patrick		5-11	186	30	
43	Johnson, Tracy	F.R.	6-0	230	28	Clemson
93	Junior, E.J	LB	6-3	242	35	Alabama
83	Junkin, Trey		6-2	237	33	Louisiana Tech
4	Kasay, John	K	5-10	169	25	Georgia
78	Keim, Mike	T	6-7	301	29	BYU
96	Kennedy Cortez	DT	6-3	293	26	Miami
84	Martin, Kelvin	WR	5-9	162	29	Boston College
44	McCloughan, Dave	S	6-1	185	28	Colorado
92	McGrary, Michael.		6-4	250	24	Wake Forest
10	McGwire, Dari	OR	6-8	239	27	San Diego St.
3			6-2	216	24	Notre Dame
	Mirer, Rick	uo				Oklahoma
98	Murphy, Kevin	FR	6-2	235	31	
72	Nash, Joe		6-3	278	34	Boston College
37	Odomes, Nate		5-10	188	29	Wisconsin
97	Porter, Rufus		6-1	227	29	Southern
73	Roberts, Ray	T	6-6	304	25	Virginia
41	Robinson, Eugene.	_5	6-0	191	31	Colgale
21	Robinson, Rafael		5-11	200	25	Wisconsin
91	Rodgers, Tyrone		6-3	266	25	Washington
71	Shaw, Rickie		6-4	294		North Carolina
70	Sinclair, Michael	DE	6-4	271	26	E. New Mexico
58	Spitulski, Bob	10	6-3	235	25	Central Florida
			6-1		28	Georgia Tech
94	Stephens Rod	DAUT		237		
85	Thomas, Doug	WH	5-10	178	25	Clemson
86	Thomas, Robb			175	28	Oregon State
56	Tofflemire, Joe	C	6-3			
99	Tuatagaloa, Natu		6-4	274		California
14	Tuten, Rick,	P	6-2	218		Florida State
22	Vaughn, Jon	RB	5-9	203	24	Michigan
42	Warren Chris	RB	6-2	225	27	Ferrum
88	Warren Terrence	WR	6-1	200		Hampton
95	Wells, Dean					Kenlucky
	France, Dealers of the	-	0.0	000	27	
90	Wooden, Terry	1.9	David.			

Houston

6-2 292 Texas 6-3 285 LSU Texas A&M

DB 6-2 204 NE Louisiana TE 6-6 245 East Carolina

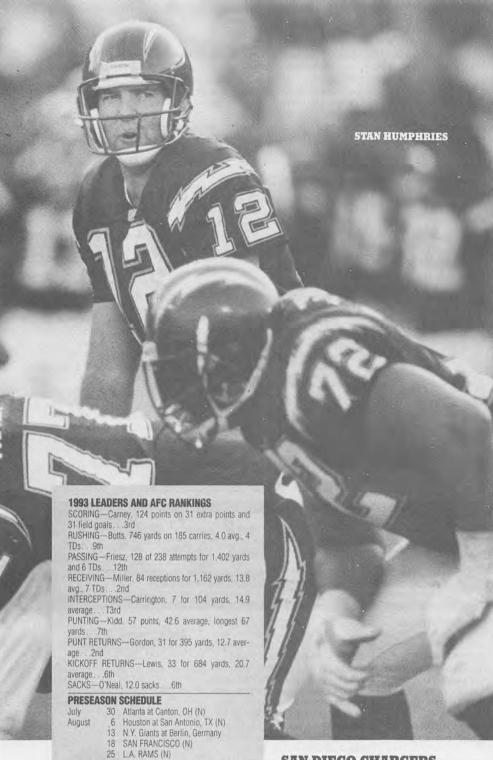
RB 5-11 222

DE

Adams, Sam

Mawae, Kevin

Smith, Lamar 4 Whigham Larry 7 Grumpler Carlester ...



SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

With Alex Spanos, the Chargers' owner, it's been a case of "Advance!...Fall back!...Fall back again!" In 1992 the Chargers, after a nine-year drought, won 11 games and the AFC Western Division championship. They beat Kansas City in the playoffs before falling in Miami. "Wait till next year!" crowed the San Diego faithful. Next year came and the Chargers, stripped down by free agency, fell to 8-8 and out of the playoffs.

As they prepare for the 1994 season, the Chargers are further stripped down. Spanos has himself to blame. No wonder general manager Bobby Beathard and coach Bobby Ross thought about quitting. In two seasons the Chargers have lost star wide receiver Anthony Miller, running back Rod Bernstine, line-

backers Henry Rolling, Dennis Murphy, and the vastly underrated Gary Plummer, quarter-back John Friesz, guards Dave Richards and Mike Zandofsky, tackle Mike Withycombe, and cornerbacks Tony Blaylock and Donald Frank. In addition, running back Marion Butts, defensive end Burt Grossman, tackle Broderick Thompson, and wide receiver Nate Lewis were traded away. The Chargers lost an outstanding guard, Eric Moten, because of injury.

CHARGERS VETERAN ROSTER

no:	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
52	Anno, Sam	I.B.	6-3	240	29	USC
85	Barnes, Johnn		6-1	180	26	Hampton
00	Bennett, Darrer		6-5	235	29	None
37	Boles, Eric		6-3	210	24	Central Wash.
95	Brady, Jeff		6-1	235	26	Kentucky
67			6-6	295	36	Colorado
	Brock, Stan					
58	Bush, Lewis		6-2	245	25	Washington State
22	Byrd, Gill		5-11	198	33	San Jose State
3	Carney, John		5-11	170	30	Notre Dame
29	Carrington, Da		6-2	200	28	Northern Arizona
44	Castle, Eric		6-3	212	24	Oregon
68	Cocozzo, Joe	G	6-4	300	24	Michigan
51	Crews, Terry	LB	6-2	245	26	Western Michigan
93	Davis, Reuben		6-5	340	29	North Carolina
23	Dunson, Walte	r WR	5-9	173	24	Middle Tenn. St.
84	Dyal, Mike	TE	6-2	240	28	Texas A&I
40	Fuller, James .	SS	6-0	208	25	Portland State
56	Gibson, Denni	sLB	6-2	240	30	Iowa State
21	Gordon, Darrie		5-11	182	24	Stanford
7	Green, Trent	QB	6-3	211	24	Indiana
92	Griggs, David.		6-3	250	27	Virginia
53	Hall, Courtney		6-1	281	26	Rice
33	Harmon, Ronn		5-11	207	30	lowa
28	Harper, Dwayn		5-11	175	28	S.C. State
34	Hendrickson, St		6-0	250	28	California
12	Humphries, St		6-2	223	29	NE Louisiana
80	Jefferson, Sha		5-11	172	25	Central Florida
	Johnson, Vano	WILVVD		180	31	Arizona
89			5-11			
99	Johnson, Rayl		6-3	245	24	Arkansas
74	Jonassen, Eric		6-5	310	26	Bloomsburg
10	Kidd, John		6-3	208	33	Northwestern
98	Lee, Shawn		6-2	300	28	North Alabama
81	Martin, Tony	WR	6-0	181	29	Mesa
88	May, Deems		6-4	263	25	North Carolina
6	McAlister, Cha		6-3	210	25	North Carolina
20	Means, Natron		5-10	245	22	North Carolina
71	Milinichik, Joe		6-5		31	N.C. State
54	Miller, Doug		6-3	232	25	South Dakota St.
94	Mims, Chris		6-5	290	24	Tennessee
77	Moten, Eric		6-2	306	26	Michigan State
91	O'Neal, Leslie.		6-4	265	30	Oklahoma State
86	Pupunu, Alfred	TE	6-2	255	25	Weber State
24	Richard, Stanle		6-2	197	27	Texas
55	Seau, Junior		6-3	250	25	USC
82	Seay, Mark		6-0	175	27	Long Beach St.
63	Smoot, Raymo		6-4	305	24	LSU
8	Snyder, Sean		6-2	190	25	Kansas State
59	Stanley, Israel.		6-2	250	24	Arizona State
1	Sullivan, Kent.		6-0	202	27	Cal Luthern
72	Swayne, Harry		6-5	295	29	Rutgers
47			6-1	180	23	
	Thomas, Chris					Cal-Poly SLO Howard
25	Vanhorse, Sea	II UB	5-10	180	26	
90	White, Reggie.		6-4	300	24	N. Carolina A&T
64	Whitley, Curtis Williams, Jerro	C	6-1	285	25	Clemson
57			6-4	240	27	Purdue
27	Williams, Mich		5-10	185	24	UCLA
87	Young, Duane	TE	6-1	270	26	Michigan State
		DRA	AFT.	EES	3	
rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	coll	ege

144	mana p	43	346	***	dunogo
2	Davis, Isaac	G	6-2	325	Arkansas
2	Parker, Vaughn	G	6-2	305	UCLA
3	Coleman, Andre V	/R	5-10	170	Kansas State
3	Clark, Willie [B	5-10	181	Notre Dame
5	Laing, Aaron	TE	5-3	235	New Mexico St.
5	Harrison, Rodney [)B	6-1	200	Western Illinois
5	Krein, Darren	DE	6-4	258	Miami
5	Vinson, Tony	RB	6-2	221	Towson State
	Beehn, Zane		6-4	250	Kentucky

Vance Johnson, who caught 36 passes for Denver, was brought in to replace Miller, who caught 84 in San Diego. The Chargers traded for Tony Martin, who was excess baggage in Miami. Gale Gilbert, who played in one game in the last seven seasons, replaces Friesz as the backup quarterback. Stan Brock, 36, was brought in to play right tackle. The Chargers

1994 SCI	HED	ULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	At Denver (N)	17-34
	11	CINCINNATI	
	18		14-31
	25	At L.A. Raiders	30-23
October	2	ODEAL DATE	
	9	KANSAS CITY	14-17
	16	At New Orleans	
	23		13-10
	30	SEATTLE	18-12
November	6	At Atlanta	
	13		24-28
	20	At New England	
	27	L.A. RAMS	
December	5	L.A. RAIDERS (N)	7-12
	11	SAN FRANCISCO	
	18	At N.Y. Jets	
	24	PITTSBURGH	3-16



didn't shoot all blanks in free agency. Outside linebacker Dennis Gibson was developing into a star at Detroit. Reuben Davis was a versatile defensive-line starter for Arizona. Seattle cornerback Dwayne Harper will also help. But all that turmoil can't be good for a team that was still searching for its identity when it won the division.

If the Chargers are to overcome their handicaps this season, they will have to get super-



human efforts from quarterback Stan Humphries and second-year running back Natrone Means. Humphries missed six games last year because of injuries. In the 10 games he started, San Diego was 6-4. In the final two games, he threw three touchdown passes against Miami and had a 272-yard day against Tampa Bay, both Charger victories which allowed the team to break even for the season. Since then Humphries' two most dangerous receivers, Miller and Lewis, have been subtracted. His season paralleled that of the Chargers. For the first month the team had trouble scoring a touchdown. In the last six games it averaged 26 points. Humphries has a history of missing games because of injury, which makes the Gilbert-for-Friesz change seem so risky. Means finished second to Butts in rushing with 645 yards. Both averaged four yards per carry with Means getting 25 fewer carries. Neither player was a factor in the passing game. What Ross hopes is that the Means he saw in the Monday night game in which San Diego ran Miami out of the playoffs will be the Means he gets on a regular basis this season. The 245-pound Means ran for 188 yards in 18 carries that night, scoring three touchdowns.

Means and Humphries should be helped most by Courtney Hall, one of the NFL's best centers, and by Harry Swayne, the left tackle the Chargers had to reward in order to keep him from leaving as a free agent. Brock is at right tackle. The problem at guard is in the hands of kids. Joe Cocozzo ended up on the



right side as a rookie. The first two draftees were guards, huge Isaac Davis of Arkansas and Vaughn Parker of UCLA, the latter of whom made the all-Pac-10 team for three consecutive seasons. Tight end Duane Young is a powerful force in the running game.

With the wide-receiving and running-back corps whittled down, Ronnie Harmon becomes more important in the Charger offensive scheme. He produced 887 yards running the ball and catching it. He had only 46 carries, but his average was 4.7 yards His 73 receptions were second on the team and averaged 9.2 yards. He'll be asked to do more in





'94. Martin, Johnson, and Shawn Jefferson fight it out for the starting jobs at wide receiver. Tight end/H-back Alfred Pupunu becomes more important in the passing game.

The strength of the defensive line is in the ends, where Leslie O'Neal had 12 sacks, was co-Most Valuable Player with linebacker Ju-

nior Seau, and went to the Pro Bowl again. With Grossman gone, Chris Mims has left end all to himself. He had seven sacks. Davis will start alongside O'Neal with Shawn Lee at left tackle. Seau is moved all around the field, which allows the Chargers to direct him to the opponents' point of attack. He led the team with 129 tackles, 19 of which were for losses. Against Houston he intercepted two passes, both leading to scores. He may be the best defensive player in the league. The Chargers thought their best free-agent signing a year ago was Pittsburgh linebacker Jerrol Williams, but he suffered a shoulder injury and missed the last two thirds of the season. They need a big comeback from him. Gibson will play the

Harper should upgrade the secondary. Strong safety Darren Carrington had interceptions in the last five games. Stanley Richards is a solid free safety. Darrien Gordon, last year's top draftee, won a starting job in the 11th game and gave indications that he will

keep it for a long time.

Kicker John Carney was the Charger offense early in the season when he extended his NFL record to 29 consecutive field goals. He finished the season 31-for-40 with 124 points. He may be more important this year. John Kidd averaged 42.6 yards on 57 punts and scored a touchdown on a fake field goal. Gordon was second in the AFC with a 12.7yard punt-return average. The return game should be helped by Andre Coleman, a thirdrounder from Kansas State.

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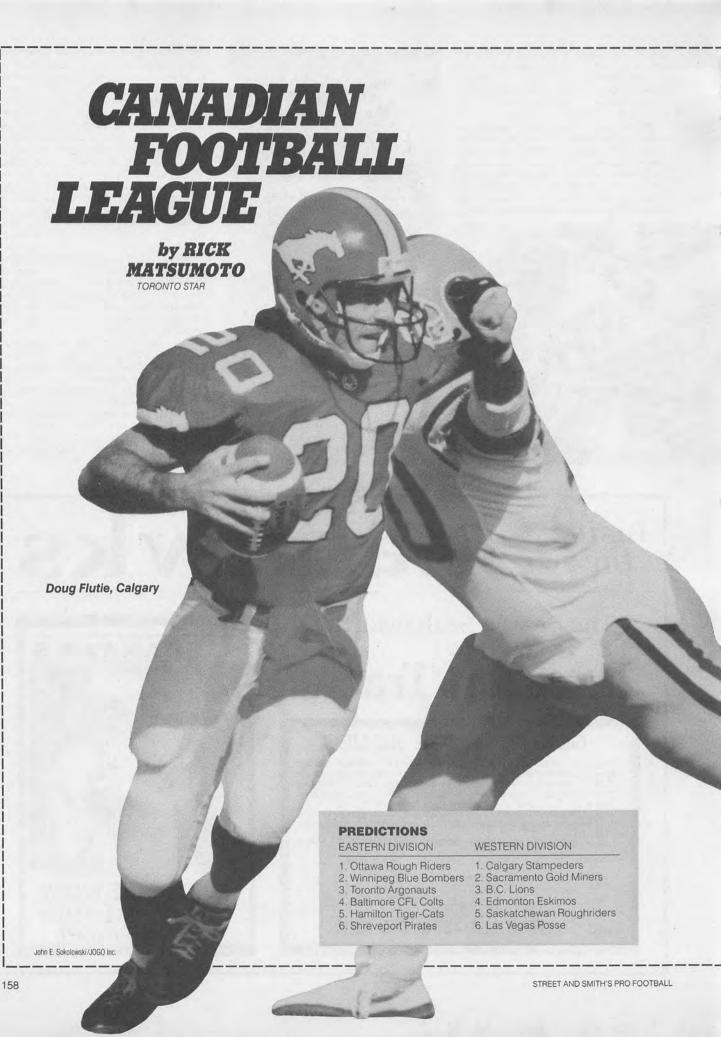
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It was in 1855 that Horace Greeley urged young men to go west for a shot at finding fame and fortune. Some 138 years later, commissioner Larry Smith urged the not-so-young men of the Canadian Football League to go south in quest of similar rewards. And like those who listened to Greeley, it appears the CFL governors have taken Smith's advice wholeheartedly. The 102-year-old league will open the 1994 season with four U.S.-based teams; if Smith has his way, that number will double by the 1995 season.

Baltimore, Shreveport, and Las Vegas will join Sacramento, which became the CFL's first franchise outside Canada last season, and talk is that San Antonio-which made an ill-fated attempt to join the league last year-Portland, Memphis, Orlando, Worcester, and, aloha, Hawaii are all vying for a place in the CFL lodge within the next season or two. The move south has already reaped benefits. The addition of Sacramento, Las Vegas, and Baltimore has put \$9 million into league coffers, while Shreveport provided a haven for the unpopular owners of the Ottawa Rough Riders, Bernie and Lonie Glieberman, while allowing for a new regime, headed by local businessman Dr. Bruce Firestone, in Ottawa.

The seeming eagerness of U.S. cities to join the CFL has spurred the league to double the expansion fee to \$6 million from \$3 million for next season. And that, Smith points out, still makes a CFL franchise an immensely more affordable product for would-be team owners in comparision with buying into the NFL, NBA, NHL, or Major League Baseball. In its expansion scheme, the CFL has wisely kept its sights on U.S. communities which, because of

Angelo Snipes, Ottawa



John E. Sokolowski/JOGO Inc.

their population, have little or no possibility of gaining an NFL franchise. The one exception, perhaps, is Baltimore, but even there the CFL waited patiently until the city and the state of Maryland had exhausted their attempts, not only to gain an NFL expansion franchise but to attract an existing team seeking to move from its present site, before awarding CFL membership to Virgina businessman Jim Speros.

"As soon as we started awarding franchises in the U.S., the interest [to join the CFL] started to bubble," said Smith. "And in Canada it's rekindled interest. It's almost like a rebirth." Smith declined to go so far as to say that expansion into the U.S. saved the CFL from extinction. But there's no doubt that both the privately- and publicly-owned teams have welcomed the much-needed cash infusion which the new teams have provided. Even original detractors such as the Winnipeg Blue Bombers have remained silent as they accepted their share of expansion monies.

"I wouldn't say expansion allowed for survival of the league, but I'd certainly say it enhanced the financial perspectives of Canadian teams," Smith said. "It's provided a bridge to the future. It provided the time and opportunity to set up a television contract in the U.S.,

1993 CFL FINAL STANDINGS

WESTERN DIVISION	W	1	1	pis	off	del
Calgary	15	3	0	30	646	418
Edmonton	12	6	0	24	507	372
Saskatchewan	11	7	0	22	511	495
British Columbia	10	8	0	20	574	583
Sacramento	6.	12	0	12	498	509
EASTERN DIVISION						
Winnipeg	14	4	0	28	646	421
Hamilton	6	12	0	12	316	567
Ottawa	4	14	0	8	387	517
Toronto	3	15	0	6	390	593

DIVISION SEMIFINALS

Hamilton 21 • Ottawa 10 Calgary 17 • British Columbia 9 Edmonton 51 • Saskatchewan 13

DIVISION FINALS

Winnipeg 20 • Hamilton 19 Edmonton 29 • Calgary 15

GREY CUP

Edmonton 33 • Winnipeg 23

which in the long term will provide us with the revenue base to flourish."

Smith, who has longed for a contract with one of the major U.S. networks, met with CBS officials early in the new year, shortly after CBS lost its NFL telecast rights to the Fox Network. While he concedes that it is unlikely CBS will broadcast CFL games this season, Smith said further meetings are planned in hopes that the network can be convinced to carry some games in 1995. At present, some games are carried by ESPN.

Smith, a former fullback/slotback with the Montreal Alouettes who took over as commissioner in the spring of 1992 after a successful career in the food products industry, admits that in some ways he's surprised that expansion into the U.S. has come about so quickly. "I suddenly look back and say, "Wow, we've increased the number of teams by 50 percent in just two years,' "he said. "But on the other hand, I'm not surprised it's happened as quickly as it has. The time was right. The opportunity was there with the folding of the World League of American Football. I felt we were in a good position to do this if we did things properly. The only thing stopping us from being a big success in the States is the lack of a TV contract."

Rapid expansion has not been without its pitfalls, however. The league fumbled on its first expansion attempt in 1993 when the San Antonio Texans, as they were to be called, withdrew from the league just two weeks after being granted a franchise. Then, this past winter, the league was all set to announce Orlando's entry. A hotel ballroom was reserved for a noon press conference and satellite time was booked to beam the news back to Canadian cities. But a morning meeting. which was expected to be a mere rubberstamping of the acceptance of Orlando, once again left Smith and the league governors red-faced as the would-be team owners failed to come up with the necessary funds.

Smith has also faced criticism at home in Canada from those who feel moving south will eventually destroy the flavor of the Canadian game (with its longer and wider field, 12 players per side, and unique single-point kicking rules) as U.S. owners slowly whittle away at the game to bring it more into line with the game as Americans know it. One major concern is that the league's name will eventually disappear, giving way to something like the North American Football League or the Can-Am Football League. Another is that two U.S.based teams will end up playing for the coveted Grey Cup-presented 85 years ago by the Earl of Grey, then Canada's governor general-for football supremacy in Canada.

"The Grey Cup should be retired to Canada's Football Hall of Fame," suggested an angry fan. "It was meant to go to the football champion of Canada, and it won't mean a thing to Americans. Let them come up with a new trophy."

Smith didn't exactly dispel such fears when he admitted during Grey Cup week last fall that, yes, he could see the day when the name might be changed. But he said later that it was just an off-the-cuff comment in response to a reporter's question and not a league policy to change the name eventually.

"It's something that may never occur," he said, explaining that he'd like to see enough U.S.-based teams to form a U.S. Division, whose winner would meet the winner of a Canadian Division for the Grey Cup. In that way, a Canadian team would always compete for Earl Grey's chalice. Smith insists that rather than viewing expansion into the U.S. as a destruction of a Canadian institution, he looks at it as "exporting Canadian technology."

That's a line he might have trouble selling.

Canada

EASTERN DIVISION

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

(4-14) Some people might call it a housecleaning. But it was more like a demolishing and rebuilding. The changes start right at the top, where local businessman Dr. Bruce Firestone came to the rescue of the CFL when be purchased the Rough Riders from Bernie and Lonie Glieberman, who had worn out their welcome like a pachyderm pawing a cheap rug. To their credit the Gliebermans, whose 21/2-year stint in Ottawa had become a multiring circus, knew they had become persona non grata and took their act to Shreveport, LA.

Firestone, who brought NHL hockey back to Ottawa in 1992 before selling his interest, hired former Saskatchewan Roughrider president Phil Kershaw to run the day-to-day operations. Kershaw, in turned, hired Adam Rita, who had led the Toronto Argonauts to the Grey Cup in 1991 before being unceremoniously fired midway through the following season, as his head coach and director of football operations. In a strange twist, Mike McCarthy, who as Argo general manager gave Rita his walking papers, now works under Rita as the Riders' director of player personnel.

Just a few days after climbing into the driver's seat. Rita played his part in a three-way swap that saw Ottawa quarterback Tom Burgess (Colgate) go to Saskatchewan, while Roughrider pivot Kent Austin (Mississippi) went to B.C. and Lions quarterback Danny Barrett ended up in Ottawa. Rita followed that by signing free-agent running back Michael

Greg Stumon, Shreveport



John F. Sakolowski/JOGO Inc.

Richardson (Louisiana Tech), the CFL's leading rusher the past two seasons, away from Winnipeg and former Hamilton guarterback Don McPherson. Earlier, Rita had signed speedy Canadian receiver Nick Mazzoli, who had become a free agent with Hamilton, and re-signed all-star defensive end John Kropke (Illinois State), who had played out his option and threatened not to return if the Gliebermans continued to operate the team.

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

(14-4)The Bombers have had what seems like an open pipeline to some of the premier linebackers in the CFL. They'd better hope someone hasn't turned off the tap. The defending Eastern champions lost two of their finest linebackers in the offseason when veteran Greg Battle (Arizona State), a two-time winner of the league's top defensive player honors, and Elfrid Payton (Grambling) departed for the greener pastures (make that pastures with more greenbacks) of the new expansion clubs. Battle signed with Las Vegas and Payton with Shreveport. The Bombers also lost running back Michael Richardson (Louisiana Tech) via free agency to Ottawa.

General manager and head coach Cal Murphy, while upset at losing the trio, wasn't concerned about finding replacements. "We'll have some good linebackers," he promised. 'Del Lyles [Utah State], who played a few games for us last year, is a good one and so is Greg Clark, And don't forget we still have Paul Randolph [Tennessee-Martin]." Murphy already had a replacement for Richardson last year in Blaise Bryant (Iowa State), who filled in on occasion. Also signed for this year is Keith Woodside (Texas A&M), a 5-11, 215-pound speedster who caught 58 passes for the Green Bay Packers a couple of seasons ago.

Murphy's biggest coup, however, will occur if he can convince Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward (Florida State) to put his signature on a CFL contract. He'd be a huge steal for the league. The incentive which the Bombers-or any other CFL team-can offer Ward is the opportunity to mix football with an NBA career, since the seasons do not overlap (unless the CFL team reaches the playoffs). Ward would also be the ideal heir apparent to oftinjured veteran Matt Dunigan (Louisiana Tech), who is recovering from a ruptured Achilles' tendon that kept him out of the Grey Cup game. While backup Sammy Garza (UTEP) turned in an admirable effort, the Bombers were no match for the Eskimos.

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

(3-15) It's been nothing but tragedy for the Argos since those short-lived days of euphoria in 1991 when, with the glittery ownership of Bruce McNall, Wayne Gretzky, and John Candy-the Three Amigos-and the on-field excitement of Rocket Ismail, they swept to the Grey Cup title. Since that success, the team has suffered a dramatic turn of fortune on the field and at the box office. And fate dealt them the ultimate tragedy when Candy, the only

owner still interested in maintaining a role with the team, suffered a fatal heart attack while filming a movie in early March.

With Candy's death, it left The Sports Network (Canada's equivalent of ESPN) to purchase the team for a reported \$6.5 million just weeks before the start of training camp. Even while he sought to unload the team, McNall, the majority owner, had attempted to prop up the faltering franchise by hiring Ron Barbaro, the retired president of Prudential Life Insurance Co. of America and a long-time Toronto resident, to run the show. Barbaro, who took over last September, brought back Bob O'Billovich as head coach and GM while returning



Dennis Meyer to defensive coordinator, the role he held before becoming head coach midway through the previous season.

One of the great miscalculations of the 1993 season was quarterback Tracy Ham, who faltered badly after being the principal figure in a 16-player swap. The problem of what to do with him this season was solved when Ham signed with the new Baltimore franchise after becoming a free agent. That left the Argos with veteran Mike Kerrigan (Northwestern) and second-year pivot Reggie Slack (Auburn) as quarterback candidates, although they were hoping to sign either or both Marvin Graves (Syracuse) and Darren Studstill (West Virgina). A major acquisition was Saskatchewan free-agent slotback Jeff Fairholm (Arizona), who has topped 1,300 yards in receptions the past two years. He joins versatile running back Mike "Pinball" Clemons (William & Mary) and receiver Manny Hazard (Houston), one of the pleasant surprises of '93, as the class of the offense.

Defensively, the Argos need a major rebuilding. Just how well O'Billovich and new personnel director John Peterson do that could determine how the Boatmen fare.

BALTIMORE CFL COLTS

Football's back in Baltimore. Colts football at that. To be totally correct, we should refer to them as the CFL Colts, in order to differentiate them from the NFL Colts, who took it on the lam from Maryland to Indiana under the cover of darkness a decade ago. But as the expansion team's owner, Jim Speros, quipped, "What can we do about it if the media insists on dropping the CFL and referring to us as just the Colts?"

Whatever they're called, there's no doubt that fans in the Baltimore area are excited about having football back. Sure, the Redskins are just a few miles away in D.C., but the Colts—even the three-down variety—are a team they can call their own. With that in mind, more than 25,000 fans plopped down a \$15 pledge even before the franchise was granted and most followed up with season-ticket purchases when the Colts were born.

Speros took the right step toward building a solid on-field product when he hired Don Matthews, a vastly experienced CFL coach, away from the Saskatchewan Roughriders to be his head coach and director of football operations. Matthews previously had been a head coach in B.C. and Toronto and an assistant in two stints with Edmonton. His first player signing was veteran quarterback Tracy Ham (Georgia Southern), who could prove to be a dangerous gamble or a huge coup. The former CFL Player of the Year was a major flop in Toronto last season, but his poor performance could have been as much the fact that he was shoved into Darrel "Mouse" Davis's run-andshoot offense, for which he's not suited, as it was a loss of ability. If Ham turns it around, then the Colts got a steal.

Matthews scored two more major free-agent coups, both of which should greatly benefit the defense, when he lured nose tackle Jearld Bayliss (Southern Mississippi), last year's Outstanding Defensive Player award winner, away from Saskatchewan, and linebacker O.J. Brigance (Rice) from the B.C. Lions. Brigance was second in the league in sacks (20). The Colts also signed linebacker Ken Benson (Arkansas), who was a starter with Toronto for two seasons.

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

(6-12) When the financially troubled Tiger-Cats packed quarterback Damon Allen off to Edmonton at the beginning of last season, they figured they not only saved a sizable salary, but had a ready replacement in Don McPherson (Syracuse). But their presumptions were as off-target as McPherson's passes. The third-year pro simply wasn't ready to step into the starting role, especially behind a weak line that deteriorated with injuries to a couple of key veterans. McPherson was dreadful, completing only 41 percent of his passes, and by midseason 'Cats head coach and general manager John Gregory was scrambling for a replacement. He tried Lee Saltz (Temple), who promptly got hurt, and Canadian Bob Torrance (Calgary) before talking Todd Dillon (Long Beach State) out of retirement to take them into the playoffs.

Dillon has re-signed for this season and Torrance returns, but Gregory was still hunting for another challenger for the starting job as camp approached. He talked former Phoenix Cardinal Timm Rosenbach out of retirement, signed rookie Joe Malden (Missouri Western), and was talking to the Houston Oilers' Bucky Richardson and the Miami Dolphins' Doug Pederson. McPherson, by the way, became a free agent and signed with Ottawa. Former NFLer Bruce Perkins (Arizona State) provided strong running (812 yards) and wide receiver Earl Winfield (North Carolina) is back for his eighth year after recording his third 1,000-yard season.

Defensively, the Ticats are intact, but jobs could be on the line after Gregory recruited linebacker Curtis McMillan (Miami-Ohio), a 1992 Butkus Award finalist, and cornerback Derrick Crudup (Oklahoma) in the offseason.

The Ticats' biggest concern—other than quarterback—is off the field, where the club is still not out of financial danger despite an injection last season from a group headed by Toronto businessman David Macdonald. The Ticats' attendance hovered below 19,000, while team executives insisted they needed closer to 25,000 to remain viable. With the industrial city of Hamilton one of the hardest hit areas of the country by the current recession, chances of reaching that attendance total are far from good.

SHREVEPORT PIRATES

Of all the cities mentioned in the CFL's mad rush for expansion into the U.S., Shreveport was one community which never came up. But suddenly, there they were, a dozen or so businessmen and politicians from the deep south, sitting in a hotel conference room in the far north (Edmonton), attempting to convince the league that their city would be a fine place for Bernie and Lonie Glieberman, who were eager to flee from Ottawa, to relocate. The CFL governors bought their sales pitch and Shreveport, which played host to the short-lived Steamers of the World Football League in 1974, had a pro football team again.

But Shreveport also got the Gliebermans, who made jambalaya out of the Ottawa Rough Riders. What had been a solid team was fragmented when the Gliebermans brought in disgraced NFL defensive end Dexter Manley and foisted him on a coaching staff that realized that the one-time star was clearly over the hill.

Well, the good folks of Shreveport will be happy to know that the Gliebermans are still bent on proving Manley can play. He was one of five Rough Riders they were allowed to take with them. The other four were backup quarterback Terrence Jones (Tulane), standout linebacker Greg Stumon (Southern Arkansas), wide receiver Wayne Walker (Texas Tech), and defensive back Joe Mero (LSU).

The Pirates, who hired former Acadia University coach and one-time CFL quarterback John Huard as their first head coach, added further local, if aged, flavor by signing three veterans: quarterback John Fourcade (Mississippi), who played with B.C. in 1982 and later had a brief spell of success with the New Orleans Saints; Gill "The Thrill" Fenerty, another ex-Saint and former CFL Rookie of the Year; and former Miami Dolphin wide receiver Mark Duper (Northwest Louisiana). The Pirates finally came up with a more youthful signing of note when they grabbed linebacker Elfrid Payton (Grambling), the runner-up last season in Defensive Player of the Year honors, a three-year CFL veteran who had played out his option with Winnipeg.

Timm Rosenbach, Hamilton



STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL 161

Canada

WESTERN DIVISION

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

(15-3) It will be interesting to see how the haughty Stampeders react after they had the rug pulled out from under them by the Eskimos in last fall's Western final. The Stamps were sure they were headed for a repeat as Grey Cup champions after running up an awesome 15-3 record during the regular season when they were defeated, 29-15, by Edmonton. Adding to the pain was the fact that they had to watch the Grey Cup party, which took place right in their own backvard, from the sidelines. What has to concern GM and head coach Wally Buono is that other teams, especially the Eskimos, closed the gap on the runaway Stampeders late in the season. Including the Western final, the Eskimos took three out of the four meetings between the teams after Labor Day. Still, heading into camp, the Stampeder lineup didn't look as if it would undergo major changes.

One alteration they'll have to make is in the defensive line, where Dutch-born Harald Hasselbach (Washington) played out his option and was NFL-bound. Even if he doesn't get past an NFL team's training camp, he won't be back in Calgary until September 1. Defensive

Mark Duper, Shreveport



backs Karl Anthony (Southwest Missouri) and Ken Watson (Livingston) also became free agents and likely won't be back. However, Junior Thurman (Southern Cal), who missed much of last year with a ruptured Achilles' tendon, is expected back on one corner. Rookie Doug Craft (Southern) and Gregg Eaglin (Arkansas-Pine Bluff), who was picked up from Hamilton late in the year, should be able to fill the other hole.

Doug Flutie, who set another batch of CFL records, was named the CFL's outstanding player for an unprecedented third straight year. He's back for a shot at four. His stats shouldn't suffer, considering he'll have Allen Pitts (Cal Fullerton), who missed a good chunk of '93 with torn knee ligaments, back at one slotback to go along with Canadian Dave Sapunjis (Western Ontario), the league's leading receiver last year with 103 catches for 1,484 yards. There will definitely be a new face at running back after veteran Keyvan Jenkins (UNLV) was released prior to training camp.

SACRAMENTO GOLD MINERS

(6-12) Fred Anderson is no longer the Lone Ranger. He carved a new frontier last year when he became the first owner of a CFL team based outside Canada. This time, however. he's got three new American partners, whom

Mike Oliphant, Sacramento

John F. Sokolowski /JOGO Inc. he's counting on to provide added interest in the U.S., particularly in Sacramento, for threedown football. Saddled with a 22,000-seat stadium and a team that struggled with the Canadian game early in the season, the Miners averaged close to 17,000 fans per game in their first shot at the CFL. They'll have to do a lot better if Anderson is to stay in business.

In the offseason, Anderson added 3,000 end zone seats to Hornet Field and restructured ticket prices throughout the UC-Sacramento campus stadium in an effort to attract more fans. There was also a much more visible ticket-selling program. But strangely enough, there was little action on the football front. About the only news was the trade of John Wiley (Auburn) to Shreveport for future considerations, and that was an odd move because many considered Wiley the team's best defensive back.

Offensively, David Archer (Iowa State) found the CFL game to his liking as he filled the air with footballs and became one of just three quarterbacks ever to throw for more than 6,000 yards in a season. He attempted 701 passes, just two fewer than Flutie, completing 403 for 6,023 yards. And he did it despite taking awesome punishment behind a line that not only suffered from numerous injuries, but had difficulty dealing with smaller and quicker defensive linemen and linebackers. Rod Harris (Texas A&M) and Titus Dixon (Troy State), the main recipients of Archer's passes, both went over the 1,000-yard mark. Running back Mike Oliphant (Puget Sound) carried 116 times for 760 yards, but more importantly proved an effective receiver coming out of the backfield, which netted him 812 yards on 47 catches. His total of 1,572 yards from scrimmage was tops in the league.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

(10-8) Now that the Lions have acquired pass master Kent Austin (Mississippi) to fling the football for them, they're sure to score a lot of points. The question is: Will they be able to score enough to overcome the number of points the defense will give up? Last year the Lions surrendered 583 points. Only the Toronto Argonauts gave up more. And like the Argos, the question of whether they've taken significant steps to shore up their defense remains unanswered.

In dealing for Austin, who set a score of Roughrider and CFL passing records in seven seasons on the prairie, the Lions admitted what was generally suspected. That is, that they weren't happy with Danny Barrett (Cincinnati) as their No. 1 quarterback. The 10year CFL veteran arrived in Vancouver two seasons ago from Calgary after the Lions lost Doug Flutie to the Stampeders through free agency. The Stampeders have finished first in the West both years and won the Grey Cup in 1992. The Lions finished last in '92 and were a close fourth last season, but 10 points behind the first-place Stampeders. Austin will have a solid corps of receivers, which should be even better with the return of Swervin' Mervyn Fernandez, who left Vancouver in 1986 to cast his lot with the L.A. Raiders. Caught in a youth movement, Fernandez was dealt to the 49ers last year but retired during training camp. He's decided to pull on his helmet again with the Lions, with whom he had four straight 1,000-plus yards seasons.

While they strengthened the offense, the Lions saw their defense hit hard by the loss of outstanding linebacker O.J. Brigance (Rice) to the Colts as well as two veterans, Tyrone Jones (Southern) and James West (Texas Southern). That left them with Zock Allen (Texas A&I), Arnie Williams (Southern Mississippi), Jeff Jackson (Auburn), and a host of rookies with which to rebuild their linebacking. In the secondary the futures of veteran cornerbacks Andre Francis (New Mexico State), 32, and Less Browne (Colorado State), 35, remain uncertain as the Lions look to the future.

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

(12-6) The first item Eskimo head coach Ron Lancaster checked when he picked up the newspaper each day this spring was the "transactions" list. It wasn't, however, to see which players had been signed or released by other CFL teams. No, Lancaster's gaze zeroed in under the baseball heading, specifically the Pittsburgh Pirates. The name he kept looking for was that of his quarterback Damon Allen, who was attempting to launch a career as a major league pitcher at the age of 30. Allen survived spring training, but was eventually shipped to the Pirates' Class-A team in Salem, Virginia, where he was being used as a long reliever. While he was hit hard in his debut as a pro pitcher, Allen's intention was to stick it out until the end of May before deciding if he'll return to football.

If Allen catches on as a baseball player, then the Eskimo quarterbacking chores will fall to Rickey Foggie (Minnesota) and Tom Muecke (Baylor). Also signed were Ricky Jones (Alabama State) and Chris Vargas (Nevada). Allen's value to the Eskimos was not so much as a passer (his 53.5 percent completion average was seventh in the league), but as a dual threat. His 920 yards rushing put him just five yards behind the league leader, Winnipeg's Mike Richardson. Foggie and Muecke do have the advantage of a top receiving unit in Jim Sandusky (San Diego State), Eddie Brown (Iowa State), Canadian J.P. Izquierdo, and Henry "Gizmo" Williams, the CFL's alltime punt-return leader. Aside from Allen, the Eskimos' biggest concern is the loss of offensive coordinator Adam Rita, who was hired as head coach by Ottawa. Rita was accorded much of the credit for sticking with and getting the most out of Allen last season after the quarterback got off to a slow start.

The defense, led by linebacker Willie Pless (Kansas), was the league's stinglest, giving up just 372 points. Every indication is that it won't be any more generous this year.

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

(11-7) It was a good news, bad news offseason for Saskatchewan. First the good news: The Roughriders, or, more accurately, the city of Regina, will host the Grey Cup in 1995—the first time the title game will be played there. That honor was bestowed on the city at the annual CFL board of governors meeting. The bad news is that some of the Riders' top stars of the recent past could wind up playing in that game wearing colors other than green.

The exodus began when quarterback Kent Austin (Mississippi), one of three passers ever to throw for more than 6,000 yards in a season, refused to return to the Roughies after seven years. He was eventually dealt to Ottawa, which in turn traded him to B.C. Then, one of Austin's favorite targets, Canadian slotback Jeff Fairholm (Arizona), who had caught passes for more than 1,000 yards in each of the past three seasons, jumped to the Argonauts as a free agent. He was followed by nose tackle Jearld Baylis (Southern Mississip-

pi), the CFL's Outstanding Defensive Player, who signed with the Colts as a free agent. The Riders even lost their motorcycle-riding head coach, Don Matthews, who zoomed off to join the Baltimore expansion franchise after two seasons in Regina. He was replaced by offensive coordinator Ray Jauch, winner of Coach of the Year honors during previous tenures with Edmonton and Winnipeg.

The trade that sent Austin packing brought Tom Burgess back to the Roughriders, the team he spent 1987-89 with before losing the quarterback battle to Austin. Burgess will have two of the CFL's top receivers in slotback Ray Elgaard (Utah), who is heading into his 12th season with the team, and eight-year veteran Donald Narcise (Texas Southern).

LAS VEGAS POSSE

The Posse got its man when the expansion club grabbed swift wide receiver Tamarick Vanover off the Florida State campus. While financial terms haven't been revealed, it is believed the 19-year-old will earn well over \$100,000 as he becomes the team's marquee player. Each CFL team is allowed to sign one player whose wages are not included in the \$2.5 million (Canadian) salary cap. Vanover was a key player on the Seminoles' national championship team, catching 87 passes and scoring 13 touchdowns in just two seasons. Vanover, however, is more than just a receiv-

Gill Fenerty, Shreveport

ing threat. In 1992, the 6-1, 200-pounder became the first college player to score touchdowns on his first two kickoff returns. He also showed he could run from scrimmage, scoring three touchdowns on reverses.

Whether the Posse has anyone to get the ball to Vanover was the question being asked as the team headed for training camp under coach Ron Meyer, the former New England Patriots field boss. The Posse's most experienced quarterback is the much-traveled Lee Saltz (Temple), who was with Hamilton last year but hampered by injuries. He also played briefly with Winnipeg and Saskatchewan as well as with the Detroit Lions. The other quarterback candidates include Darian Hagan (Colorado), Jason Verduzco (Illiriois), and Jeff Loots (Southwest Minnesota), all of whom have spent minimum time with CFL teams.

The Posse lassoed a second major catch in linebacker Greg Battle (Arizona State), the two-time CFL Defensive Player of the Year, who had spent seven seasons with Winnipeg before playing out his option last year. He'll be the key to the defense. The Posse also signed running back Robert Mimbs (Kansas), who won back-to-back rushing titles with Winnipeg (1990-91) before being supplanted by Michael Richardson. A third ex-Bomber, wide receiver Larry Thompson (Solano Community College), whose career seemed to have ended when he was shot in the leg in a case of mistaken identity, was also signed.



SHISHES

SCORING

RECORDS

Points: 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960) Touchdowns: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983) Field goals: 35, Ali Haji-Sheikh, New York (1983) Extra points: 62, Mark Moseley, Washington (1983)

		40.00							_
TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
San Francisco61	26	29	6	59	61	16	26	0	473
Dallas41	20	18	3	40	41	30	37	0	376
Green Bay35	14	19	2	35	35	31	37	1	340
Phoenix37	12	21	4	37	37	21	28	2	326
New Orleans33	10	18	5	33	33	28	35	1	317
Atlanta34	4	28	2	34	34	26	27	0	316
Detroit28	9	15	4	28	28	34	43	0	298
Philadelphia35	7	23	5	31	35	16	23	2	293
N.Y. Giants30	11	17	2	28	30	26	34	1	288
Minnesota28	8	18	2	27	28	26	35	2	277
Tampa Bay27	6	19	2	27	27	16	22	0	237
Chicago22	10	7	5	21	22	27	36	0	234
Washington26	11	11	4	24	26	16	28	1	230
L.A. Rams25	8	16	1	23	25	16	23	0	221

KICKERS

XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Hanson, Jason, Det	28	34	43	130
Jacke, Chris, G.B35	35	31	37	128
Murray, Eddie, Dall	38	28	33	122
Andersen, Morten, N.O 33	33	28	35	117
Johnson, Norm, Atl 34	34	26	27	112
Cofer, Mike, S.F	61	16	26	107
Reveiz, Fuad, Minn27	28	26	35	105
Treadwell, David, Giants 28	29	25	31	103
Butler, Kevin, Chi21	22	27	36	102
Davis, Greg, Phoe37	37	21	28	100
Husted, Michael, T.B27	27	16	22	75
Lohmiller, Chip, Wash24	26	16	28	72
Zendejas, Tony, Rams	25	16	23	71
Ruzek, Roger, Phil	16	8	10	37
Elliott, Lin, Dall	3	2	4	8
Daluiso, Brad, Giants 0	0	1	3	3

NON-KICKERS

TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Rice, Jerry, S.F 16	1	15	0	96
Rison, Andre, Atl 15		15	0	90
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B11	0	11	0	66
Watters, Ricky, S.F 11	10	1	0	66
Bennett, Edgar, G.B 10	9	1	0	60
Smith, Emmitt, Dall 10	9	1	0	60
Williams, Calvin, Phil	0	10	0	60
Carter, Cris, Minn9	0	9	0	54
Moore, Ron, Phoe9	9	0	0	54
Bettis, Jerome, Rams7	7	0	0	42
Irvin, Michael, Dall 7	0	7	0	42
Logan, Marc, S.F 7	7	0	0	42
Pritchard, Mike, Atl 7	0	7	0	42
Proehl, Ricky, Phoe 7	0	7	0	42
Bavaro, Mark, Phil6	0	6	0	36
Early, Quinn, N.O	0	6	0	36
Moore, Herman, Det6	0	6	0	36

Williams, Kevin, Dall.	6	2	2	2	36
Carter, Anthony, Minn.		0	5	0	30
Cross, Howard, Giants		0	5	0	30
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	5	5	0	0	30
Harper, Alvin, Dall.	5	0	5	0	30
Hawkins, Courtney, T.B	5	0	5	0	30
Taylor, John, S.F.	5	0	5	0	30
Allen, Eric, Phil.	4	.0	0	4	24
Anderson, Neal, Chi	4	4	0	0	24



Anderson, Willie, Rams 4	0	4	0	24
Clark, Gary, Phoe 4	0	4	0	24
Cobb, Reggie, T.B	3	1	0	24
Copeland, Horace, T.B4	0	4	0	24
Drayton, Troy, Rams4	0	4	0	24
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi 4	4	0	0	24
Harris, Jackie, G.B 4	0	4	0	24
Haynes, Michael, Atl 4	0	4	0	24
Hill, Randal, Phoe 4	0	4	0	24
Jackson, Mark, Giants 4	0	4		24
Johnston, Daryl, Dall	3	1	0	24
Moore, Derrick, Det	3	1	0	24
Sanders, Ricky, Wash 4	0	4	0	24
Walker, Herschel, Phil	1	3	0	24
Workman, Vince, T.B	2	2	0	24
Brooks, Reggie, Wash	3	0	0	18
Brown, Derek, N.O	2	1	0	
		1		18
Bunch, Jarrod, Giants	2		0	18
Calloway, Chris, Giants 3	0	3	0	18
Centers, Larry, Phoe	0	3	0	18
Clayton, Mark, G.B 3	0	3	0	18
Graham, Scottie, Minn 3	3	0	0	18
Hebron, Vaughn, Phil 3	3	0	0	18
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O3	2	1	0	18
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O3	0	0	3	18
Jones, Brent, S.F 3	0	3	0	18
Lassic, Derrick, Dall 3	3	0	0	18
Lee, Amp, S.F	1	2	0	18
Martin, Eric, N.O3	0	3	0	18
McGee, Tim, Wash 3	0	3	0	18
Mitchell, Brian, Wash 3	3	0	0	18
Muster, Brad, N.O3	3	0	0	18
Obee, Terry, Chi 3	0	3	0	18
Pegram, Erric, Atl	3	0	0	18
Rathman, Tom, S.F 3	3	0	0	18
Rypien, Mark, Wash 3	3	0	0	18
Sanders, Barry, Det 3	3	0	0	18
Thompson, Darrell, G.B	3	0	0	18
Tillman, Lewis, Giants 3	3	0	0	18
Bailey, Johnny, Phoe 2	1	0	1	12
Baker, Myron, Chi2	0	0	2	12
Carter, Dexter, S.F	1	0	1	12
Clay, Willie, Det	0	0	2	12
Coleman, Lincoln, Dall	2	0	0	12
Conway, Curtis, Chi	0	2	0	12
Craig, Roger, Minn 2	1	1	0	12
Davis, Eric, S.F	0	0	2	12
Ellard, Henry, Rams2	0	2	0	12
Gary, Cleveland, Rams	1	1	0	12
Green, Willie, Det	0	2	0	12
Hallock, Ty, Det 2	0	2	0	12
Holman, Rodney, Det	0	2	0	12
Jones, Ernie, Rams	0	2	0	12
Lynch, Eric, Det 2	2	0	0	12
McCaffrey, Ed, Giants2	0	2	0	12
Middleton, Ron, Wash2	0	2	0	12
Monk, Art, Wash 2	0	2	0	12
Novacek, Jay, Dall 2	1	1	0	12
Perriman, Brett, Det	0	2	0	12
Sherman, Heath, Phil	2	0	0	12
Sherrard, Mike, Giants 2	0	2	0	12
Smith, Irv, N.O	0	2	0	12
Smith, Robert, Minn 2	2	0	0	12
Thomas, Lamar, T.B	0	2	0	12
Williams, Aeneas, Phoe 2	0	0	2	12
Word, Barry, Minn2	2	0	0	12

Worley, Tim, Chi	2	0	0	12
Young, Steve, S.F2	2	0	0	12
Young, Mike, Phil2	0	2	0	12
Anderson, Gary, T.B 1	0	1	0	6
Armstrong, Tyji, T.B	0	1	0	6
Bailey, Victor, Phil 1	0	1	0	6
Beach, Sanjay, S.F 1	0	1	0	6
Blount, Eric, Phoe 1	1	0	0	6
Bono, Steve, S.F 1	1	0	0	6
Boykin, Deral, Rams 1	0	0	1	6
Brenner, Hoby, N.O 1	0	1	0	6
Brooks, Robert, G.B 1	0	0	1	6
Broussard, Steven, Atl	1	0	0	6
Butler, LeRoy, G.B 1	0	0	1	6
Byner, Earnest, Wash 1	1	0	0	6
Carrier, Mark, Chi1	0	0	1	6
Carter, Pat, Rams 1	0	1	0	6
Clark, Vinnie, Atl 1	0	0	1	6
Coleman, Monte, Wash 1	0	0	1	6



Collins, Mark, Giants1	0	0	1	6
Cunningham, Randall, Phil 1	1	0	0	6
Dowdell, Marcus, N.O1	0	1	0	6
Edwards, Anthony, Phoe1	0	1	0	6
Evans, Byron, Phil	0	0	1	6
Favre, Brett, G.B 1	1	0	0	6
Galbraith, Scott, Dall,	0	1	0	6
Gannon, Rich, Wash1	1	0	0	6
Gouveia, Kurt, Wash1	0	0	1	6
Gray, Mel, Del 1	0	0	1	6
Green, Darrell, Wash1	0	0	1	6
Hall, Ron, T.B	0	1	0	6
Hanks, Merton, S.F 1	0	0	1	6
Hearst, Garrison, Phoe 1	1	0	0	6
Ismail, Qadry, Minn 1	0	1	0	6
Jamison, George, Det 1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, A.J., Wash 1	0	0	1	6
Jones, Dante, Chi 1	0	0	1	6

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PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 353, Don Majkowski, Green Bay (1989) Touchdowns: 36, Y.A. Tittle, New York (1963)

Yards: 4,614, Neil Lomax, St. Louis (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Frank Filchock to Andy Farkas, Washington (1939)

99 yards, George Izo to Bobby Mitchell, Washington (1963) 99 yards, Karl Sweetan to Pat Studstill, Detroit (1966)

99 yards, Karl Sweetan to Pat Studstill, Detroit (1966) 99 yards, Sonny Jurgensen to Gerry Allen, Washington (1968)

99 yards, Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia (1985)

										_		
ATT	- Se	PCT	YDS	AVG		CT TD	LONG	INT	PCT INT		YDS LOST	
Young, Steve, S.F462	314	68.0	4023	8.71	29	6.3	t80	16	3.5	31	160	101.5
Aikman, Troy, Dall392	271	69.1	3100	7.91	15	3.8	t80	6	1.5	26	153	99.0
Simms, Phil, Giants400	247	61.8	3038	7.60	15	3.8	62	9	2.3	37	217	88.3
Brister, Bubby, Phil309	181	58.6	1905	6.17	14	4.5	58	5	1.6	19	148	84.9
Hebert, Bobby, Atl430	263	61.2	2978	6.93	24	5.6	198	17	4.0	29	190	84.0
Beuerlein, Steve, Phoe418	258	61.7	3164	7.57	18	4.3	t65	17	4.1	29	206	82.5
McMahon, Jim, Minn331	200	60.4	1968	5.95	9	2.7	58	8	2.4	23	104	76.2
Favre, Brett, G.B522	318	60.9	3303	6.33	19	3.6	t66	24	4.6	30	199	72.2
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi325	200	61.5	2002	6.16	7	2.2	48	11	3,4	43	210	72.1
Wilson, Wade, N.O388	221	57.0	2457	6.33	12	3.1	142	15	3.9	37	225	70.1
Peete, Rodney, Det252	157	62.3	1670	6.63	6	2.4	193	14	5.6	34	174	66.4
Erickson, Craig, T.B457	233	51.0	3054	6.68	18	3.9	t67	21	4.6	35	236	66.4
Everett, Jim, Rams274	135	49.3	1652	6.03	8	2.9	t60	12	4.4	18	125	59.7
Rypien, Mark, Wash319	166	52.0	1514	4.75	4	1.3	43	10	3.1	16	87	56,3
NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more a	ttempts)										
Kramer, Erik, Det138	87	63.0	1002	7.26	8	5.8	48	3	2.2	.5	35	95.1
Cunningham, Randall, Phil110	76	69.1	850	7.73	5	4.5	180	5	4.5	7	33	88.1
Buck, Mike, N.O54	32	59.3	448	8.30	4	7.4	163	3	5.6	3	17	87.6
Salisbury, Sean, Minn195	115	59.0	1413	7.25	9	4.6	55	6	3.1	12	77	84.0
Kosar, Bernie, CleDall201	115	57.2	1217	6.05	8	4.0	86	3	1.5	23	132	82.0
Rubley, T.J., Rams189	108	57.1	1338	7.08	8	4.2	54	6	3.2	13	106	80.1
Bono, Steve, S.F61	39	63.9	416	6.82	0	0.0	33	4	1.6	4	18	76.9
Conklin, Cary, Wash87	46	52.9	496	5.70	4	4.6	134	3	3.4	8	45	70.9
O'Brien, Ken, Phil137	71	51.8	708	5.17	4	2.9	41	3	2.2	15	116	67.4
Chandler, Chris, Phoe103	52	50.5	471	4.57	3	2.9	127	2	1.9	4	25	64.8
Walsh, Steve, N.O38	20	52.6	271	7.13	2	5.3	t54	3	7.9	0	0	60.3
Gannon, Rich, Wash125	74	59.2	704	5.63	3	2.4	54	7	5.6	16	87	59.6
Tolliver, Billy Joe, All76	39	51.3	464	6.11	3	3.9	142	5	6.6	3	15	56.0
Garrett, Jason, Dall19	9	47.4	61	3.21	0	0.0	16	0	0.0	1	6	54.9
Ware, Andre, Det45	20	44.4	271	6.02	1	2.2	47	2	4.4	7	20	53.1
Miller, Chris, Atl	32	48.5	345	5.23	1	1.5	132	3	4.5	8	62	50.4
Graham, Kent, Giants22	8	36.4	79	3.59	0	0.0	18	0	0.0	3		47.3
Weldon, Casey, T.B11	6	54.5	55	5.00	0	0.0	20	1	9.1	1	11	30.5
Willis, Peter Tom, Chi60	30	50.0	268	4.47	0	0.0	29	5	8.3	5	20	27.6

PUNTING

RECORDS

Number: 114, Bob Parsons, Chicago (1981)

Average: 51.4 yards, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)

Longest: 94 yards, Joe Lintzenich, Chicago (1931)

NO:	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK:	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Arnold, Jim, Det72	3207	68	44.5	9	0	45	377	15	36.8
Roby, Reggie, Wash 78	3447	60	44.2	10	0	31	343	25	37.2
Camarillo, Rich, Phoe	3189	61	43.7	8	0	30	267	23	37.8
Barnhardt, Tommy, N.O77	3356	58	43.6	6	0	36	348	26	37.5
Alexander, Harold, Atl72	3114	75	43.3	3	0	41	350	21	37.6
Newsome, Harry, Minn90	3862	64	42.9	6	0	46	560	25	35.4
Wagner, Bryan, G.B74	3174	60	42.9	7	0	38	350	19	36.3
Landeta, Sean, Giants-Rams 75	3215	66	42.9	10	1	44	444	18	33.8
Horan, Mike, Giants44	1882	60	42.8	1	0	25	107	13	39.9
Jett, John, Dall 56	2342	59	41.8	3	0	32	169	22	37.7
Wilmsmeyer, Klaus, S.F42	1718	61	40.9	5	0	15	171	11	34.5
Stryzinski, Dan, T.B	3772	57	40.6	3	1	53	394	24	35.3
Feagles, Jeff, Phil	3323	60	40.0	4	0	35	311	31	35.3
Gardocki, Chris, Chi 80	3080	58	38.5	2	0	22	115	28	36.6
NON-QUALIFIERS									
McJulien, Paul, Rams21	795	56	37.9	3	0	10	143	5	28.2
Bracken, Don, Rams 17	651	51	38.3	0	0	8	86	3	33.2
Goodburn, Kelly, Wash	197	49	39.4	0	0	3	0	3	39.4
Leader based on average, minimum 40 punts		7.0			-				-

0	1	0	6	McMillian, Audray, Minn	0	0	9	6
0	1	0	6	McNeal, Travis, Rams1	0	1	0	6
0	1	0	6	Meggett, David, Giants	0	0	1	6
0	0	1	6				1	6
0	0	1	6				0	6
0	0	1	6			1	0	6
1	0	0	6			0	0	6
0	1	0	6			0	0	6
0	0	1	6	Newman, Pat, N.O	0	1	0	6
0	0	1	6			0	0	6
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Rasheed, Kenyon, Giants 1	1	0	0	6
Reeves, Walter, Phoe 1	0	1	0	6
Rolle, Butch, Phoe 1		1	0	6
Royster, Mazio, T.B 1	1	0	0	6
Sanders, Deion, Atl	0	1	0	6
Seals, Ray, T.B	0	0	1	6
Singleton, Nate, S.F	0	1	0	6
Small, Torrance, N.O	0	1	0	6
Smith, Kevin, Dall 1	0	0	1	6
Smith, Tony, Atl	0	0	1	6
Stephens, John, G.B 1	1	0	0	6
Tamm, Ralph, S.F 1	0	0	1	6
Tice, Mike, Minn 1	0	1	0	6
Turner, Floyd, N.O 1	0	1	0	6
Waddle, Tom, Chi1	0	1	0	6
Warren, Frank, N.O 1	0	0	1	6
Wetnight, Ryan, Chi 1	0	1	0	6
Williams, Jamie, S.F 1	0	1	0	6
Flores, Mike, Phil 0	0	0	0	*2
Hamilton, Keith, Giants 0	0	0	0	*2
Stowers, Tommie, N.O 0	0	0	0	*2
Swann, Eric, Phoe 0	0	0	0	*2
Thomas, Henry, Minn 0	0	0	0	*2

Team safeties: Green Bay, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Washington

RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 407, James Wilder, Tampa Bay (1984) Yards: 2,105, Eric Dickerson, Los Angeles (1984) TDs: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)

ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
N.Y. Giants560	2210	3.9	58	11
Dallas	2161	4.4	t62	20
San Francisco	2133	4.6	t50	26
L.A. Rams 449	2014	4.5	171	8
Detroit	1944	4.3	48	9
Phoenix	1809	4.0	57	12
New Orleans 414	1766	4.3	t74	10
Philadelphia	1761	3.9	35	7
Washington	1728	4.4	t85	11
Chicago477	1677	3.5	45	10
Minnesota447	1624	3.6	31	8
Green Bay 448	1619	3.6	t60	14
Atlanta	1590	4.0	29	4
Tampa Bay 402	1290	3.2	22	6

Tampa Bay 402	1290	3.2	22	6
1 or more yards ATT			LONG	
Smith, Emmitt, Dall	1486	5.3		
Bettis, Jerome, Rams 294		4.9		7
Pegram, Erric, Atl	1185	4.1		
Sanders, Barry, Det	1115	4.6	42	
Hampton, Rodney, Giants 292	1077	3.7	20	5
Brooks, Reggie, Wash 223	1063	4.8	t85	3
Moore, Ron, Phoe 263	1018	3.9	20	9
Watters, Ricky, S.F 208	950	4.6	39	10
Walker, Herschel, Phil 174	746	4.3	35	1
Brown, Derek, N.O	705	3.9	60	2
Cobb, Reggie, T.B	658	3.0		
Thompson, Darrell, G.B 169	654			
Anderson, Neal, Chi 202	646	3.2		4
Tillman, Lewis, Giants 121	585	4.8		3
Bennett, Edgar, G.B	550	3.5		9
Graham, Scottie, Minn 118	488	4.1		3
Worley, Tim, PitChi	470	3.9		2
Word, Barry, Minn142	458			2
Young, Steve, S.F	407	5.9		2
Sherman, Heath, Phil	406	3.5		2
Moore, Derrick, Det	405	4.6		
Smith, Robert, Minn	399			
Meggett, David, Giants	329			
Hebron, Vaughn, Phil	297	3.5		
Gary, Cleveland, Rams79	293	3.7		
Workman, Vince, T.B	284	3.6		
Logan, Marc, S.F		4.8		7
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi	277			
Lassic, Derrick, Dall75	269	3.6		3
Hearst, Garrison, Phoe	264	3.5		1
Bailey, Johnny, Phoe	253	5.2		
Mitchell, Brian, Wash		3.9		3
Lee, Amp, S.F72	230	3.2		1
Wilson, Wade, N.O31	230	7.4		0
Favre, Brett, G.B		3.7		1
Muster, Brad, N.O	214			
Lynch, Eric, Det	207			
Drouppord Ctourn 44 20				1
Broussard, Steven, Atl 39	200	5.3	20	1

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NFCstatistics

TIL ODIGILDIN	-		_	
Heyward, Craig, Chi68	206	3.0	11	0
	200	4.0	18	0
Ervins, Ricky, Wash	22.2	8.3	174	1
Neal, Lorenzo, N.O	175	3.3	16	2
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O	165	3.7	28-	1
Peete, Rodney, <i>Det.</i>	160	3.1	27	1
	152	6.1	33	0
Centers, Larry, Phoe	140	3.6	12	0
Joseph, James, Phil	132	3.9	16	2
Coleman, Lincoln, Dall	128	3.9	13	2
Bunch, Jarrod, Giants				0
Aikman, Troy, Dall	125	3.9	20	1
Craig, Roger, Minn	119			
Royster, Mazio, T.B	115	3.5	19	1
Cunningham, Randall, Phil 18	110	6.1	26	1
Byner, Earnest, Wash23	105	4.6	16	1
Rubley, T.J., Rams	102	3.5	13	0
Erickson, Craig, T.B26	96	3.7	15	0
McMahon, Jim, Minn	96	2.9	16	0
Dickerson, Eric, All26	91	3.5	10	0
Gannon, Rich, Wash21	88	4.2	12	1
Rathman, Tom, S.F	80	4.2	19	3
Johnston, Daryl, Dall24	74	3.1	11	3
Lester, Tim, Rams11	74	6.7	26	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F 10	72	7.2	t50	1
Ned, Derrick, N.O9	71	7.9	135	1
Rice, Jerry, S.F 3	69	23.0	143	1
Anderson, Gary, T.B	56	2.0	13	0
Hebert, Bobby, Atl24	49	2.0	14	0
Tolliver, Billy Joe, Atl 7	48	6.9	24	0
Proehl, Ricky, Phoe 8	47	5.9	17	0
Beuerlein, Steve, Phoe 22	45	2.0	20	0
Conway, Curtis, Chi 5	44	8.8	18	0
Rasheed, Kenyon, Giants 9	42	4.7	t23	1
Brister, Bubby, Phil	39	2.0	13	0
Everett, Jim, Rams19	38	2.0	14	0
Copeland, Horace, T.B 3	34	11.3	22	0
Early, Quinn, N.O	32	16.0	26	0
Evans, Chuck, Minn14	32	2.3	5	0
Simms, Phil, Giants	31	1.1	9	0
Gainer, Derrick, Dall9	29	3.2	8	0
Green, Robert, Chi	29	1.9	10	0
Harris, Rudy, T.B 7	29	4.1	12	0
Lang, David, Rams9	29	3.2	28	0
Blount, Eric, Phoe5	28	5.6	7	1
Kosar, Bernie, CleDall 23	26	1.1	10	0
Williams, Kevin, Dall 7	26	3.7	12	2
Jackson, Mark, Giants3	25	8.3	20	0
Ware. Andre. Det 7	23	3.3	8	0
Carter, Anthony, Minn 7	19	2.7	9	0
Christian, Bob, Chi 8	19	2.4	12	0
Barnhardt, Tommy, N.O	18	18.0	18	0
Ellard, Henry, Rams2	18	9.0	15	0
Brooks, Robert, G.B 3	17	5.7	21	0
Howard, Desmond, Wash 2	17	8.5	9	0
O'Brien, Ken, Phil	17	4.3	11	0
Taylor, John, S.F	17	8.5	12	0
Walker, Adam, S.F	17	3.4	11	0
Perriman, Brett, Det4	16	4.0	16	0
Bono, Steve, S.F	14	1.2	10	1
Ismail, Qadry, Minn3	14	4.7	6	0
Agee, Tommie, Dall	13	2.2	6	0
Lewis, Darren, Chi	13	1.9	3	0
Miller, Chris, All2	11	5.5	6	0
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	10	5.0	8	0
White, Russell, Rams2	10	5.0	5	0
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B4	8	2.0	5	0
Drayton, Troy, Rams	7	7.0	7	0
Matthews, Aubrey, Del	7	3.5	9	0
Sanders, Ricky, Wash	7	7.0	7	0
Wilson, Charles, T.B	7	3.5	4	0
Feagles, Jeff, Phil	6	3.0	6	0
Irvin, Michael, Dall	6	3.0	9	0
McDowell, Anthony, T.B	6	3.0	3	0
Willis, Peter Tom, Chi	6	3.0	6	0
Armstrong, Tyji, T.B	5	2.5	4	0
Kramer, Erik, Det	5	0.5	4	0
Jones, Ernie, Rams1	4	4.0	4	0
Pritchard, Mike, Atl	4	2.0	4	0
Rypien, Mark, Wash	4	0.4	5	3
Mims, David, All	3	3.0	3	0
Wilson, Marcus, G.B	3	0.5	5	0
Chandler, Chris, Phoe 3	2	0.7	1	0
Novacek, Jay, Dall	2	2.0	12	1
Richards, Curvin, Det 4	1	0.3	1	0
1 Touchdown	,	0.0		U

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 112, Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay (1993) Yards: 1,570, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1986) TDs: 22, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1987)

2 or more receptions N	0	YARDS		LONG	T
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B11		1274	11.4	54	
Rice, Jerry, S.F9			15.3	180	15
Irvin, Michael, Dall 8		1330	15.1	t61	17
Rison, Andre, Atl 8	6		14.4	t53	15
Carter, Cris, Minn 8		1071	12.5	58	9
Walker, Herschel. Phil 7	5	610	8.1	55	1
Pritchard, Mike, All	4	736	9.9	34	1
Haynes, Michael, All 7	2	778	10.8	198	1
Jones, Brent, S.F		735	10.8	29	1
Martin, Eric, N.O 6		950	14.4		
Centers, Larry, Phoe 6		603	9.1	29	
Proehl, Ricky, Phoe		877	13.5	t51	1
Clark, Gary, Phoe 6		818			
Hawkins, Courtney, T.B		933		67	
Ellard, Henry, Rams		945	15.5	54	1
Moore, Herman, Det		935	15.3		
		775	12.9		
Carter, Anthony, Minn				39	
Williams, Calvin, Phil		725	12.1	180	
Bennett, Edgar, G.B 5		457	7.7	139	
Jackson, Mark, Giants5		708	12.2	140	4
Sanders, Ricky, Wash5		638	11.0	50	1
Smith, Emmitt, Dall 5		414	7.3	86	7
Taylor, John, S.F 5	ô	940	16.8	176	
Jordan, Steve, Minn 5	6	542	9.7	53	
Norkman, Vince, T.B 5	4	411	7.6	142	12
Johnston, Daryl, Dall	0	372	7.4	20	1
Perriman, Brett, Det		496	10.1	34	2
Early, Quinn, N.O 4		670	14.9	t63	6
Waddle, Tom, Chi4			12.5	38	1
Novacek, Jay, Dall 4		445	10.1	30	4
Bavaro, Mark, Phil		481	11.2	27	6
Harris, Jackie, G.B4		604	14.4	166	2
Bailey, Victor, Phil		545	13.3	58	1
					2
Monk, Art, Wash		398	9.7	29	
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O		296	7.4	34	1
McGee, Tim, Wash 3		500	12.8		3
Meggett, David, Giants		319	8.4	50	
Anderson, Willie, Rams 3	9	552	14.9	156	4
ogan, Marc, S.F	7	348	9.4	24	(
Harper, Alvin, Dall3		777	21.6	180	5
Gary, Cleveland, Rams 3	3	289	8.0	160	1
Sanders, Barry, Det		205	5.7	17	(
Hill, Randal, Phoe 3	5	519	14.8	158	4
Calloway, Chris, Giants 3	5	513	14.7	47	3
Hill, Drew, Atl 3-	1	384	11.3	30	0
Pegram, Erric, All	3	302	9.2	30	0
Clayton, Mark, G.B 3:	2	331	10.3	32	3
Bailey, Johnny, Phoe		243	7.6	30	0
Natters, Ricky, S.F 3		326	10.5	148	1
Anderson, Neal, Chi 3		160	5.2	35	0
Copeland, Horace, T.B	1	633			4
loseph, James, Phil		291	10.0		1
Proon Willia Dat	2	462	16.5	47	2
Green, Willie, Det	7	335			
McCaffrey, Ed, Giants	,		12.4	31	2
Orayton, Troy, Rams		319	11.8	27	4
lyner, Earnest, Wash		194	7.2	20	0
bee, Terry, Chi 2		351	13.5	48	3
Bettis, Jerome, Rams		244	9.4	28	0
Vest, Ed, G.B2		253	10.1	24	0
Holman, Rodney, Det		244	9.8	t28	2
Sherrard, Mike, S.F 24	1	433	18.0	t55	2
Middleton, Ron, Wash 24		154	6.4	18	2
Smith, Robert, Minn 24	1	111	4.6	12	C
loward, Desmond, Wash 23		286	12.4	27	0
fall, Ron, T.B		268	11.7	t37	1
Auster, Brad, N.O		195	8.5	31	0
Cross, Howard, Giants		272	13.0	32	5
Brooks, Reggie, Wash		186	8.9	43	C
Brown, Derek, N.O		170	8.1	19	1
					1
Moore, Derrick, Det		169	8.0	20	
Brooks, Robert, G.B	1	180	9.0	25	0
Mitchell, Brian, Wash	1	157	7.9	18	0
Villiams, Kevin, Dall		151	7.6	33	2
Conway, Curtis, Chi		231	12.2	138	2
smail, Qadry, Minn19		212	11.2	37	1
rain Poper Minn 4	}	169	8.9	31	1
Craig, Roger, Minn					0

Lactor Tim Domo	154	0.0	24	-
Lester, Tim, Rams	154	8.6	21	0
Thompson, Darrell, G.B	129	7.2	34	0
Barnett, Fred, Phil	170			2
Smith, Irv, N.O	164	11.3	23	1
Christian, Bob, Chi	160	10.0	36	0
Heyward, Craig, Chi	132	8.3	20	0
Williams, Jamie, S.F	132	8.3	15	1
Ervins, Ricky, Wash	123	7.7	20	0
Lee, Amp, S.F	115	7.2	22	2
Wycheck, Frank, Wash	113	7.1	20	0
Wilson, Charles, T.B	225	15.0	24	0
Dawsey, Lawrence, T.B	203	13.5	24	0
Tennell, Derek, Minn	122	8.1	17	0
Young, Mike, Phil14	186	13.3	149	2
Lofton, James, Rams-Phil 14	183	13.1	32	0
Carter, Pat, Rams14	166	11.9	38	1
Jennings, Keith, Chi	150	10.7	29	0
Edwards, Anthony, Phoe 13	326	25.1	t65	1
Bunch, Jarrod, Giants	98	7.5	15	1
Lynch, Eric, Det 13	82	6.3	11	0
Green, Robert, Chi	63	4.8	9	0
Pierce, Aaron, Giants12	212	17.7	54	0
Turner, Floyd, N.O	163	13.6	52	1
Davis, Wendell, Chi	132	11.0	17	0
Mims, David, Atl	107	8.9	19	1
Sherman, Heath, Phil	78	6.5	21	0
Brenner, Hoby, N.O11	171	15.5	27	1
Matthews, Aubrey, Det	171	15.5	40	0
Anderson, Gary, T.B	89	8.1	28	1
Hebron, Vaughn, Phil 11	82	7.5	12	0
Worley, Tim, PitChi	62	5.6	15	0
Gedney, Chris, Chi 10	98	9.8	24	0
Rathman, Tom, S.F 10	86	8.6	17	0
Johnson, Maurice, Phil 10	81	8.1	17	0
Rolle, Butch, Phoe 10	67	6.7	22	1
Word, Barry, Minn9	105	11.7	27	0
Wetnight, Ryan, Chi9	93	10.3	t25	1
Armstrong, Tvii, T.B	86	9.6	29	1
Reeves, Walter, Phoe9	67	7.4	18	1
Cobb, Reggie, T.B9	61	6.8	19	1
Ned, Derrick, N.O9	54	6.0	14	0
Lassic, Derrick, Dall9	37	4.1	9	0
Thomas, Lamar, T.B 8	186	23.3	162	2
Kinchen, Todd, Rams 8	137	17.1	t35	1
Singleton, Nate, S.F8	126	15.8	33	1
Newman, Pat, N.O 8	121	15.1	32	1
Hallock, Ty. Det 8	88	11.0	24	2
McNeal, Travis, Rams8	75	9.4	122	1
Lyons, Mitch, All 8	63	7.9	14	0
McDowell, Anthony, T.B 8	26	3.3	9	1
Brown, Derek, Giants7	56	8.0	14	0
Campbell, Jeff, Del 7	55	7.9	12	0
Graham, Scottie, Minn7	46	6.6	11	0
Sanders, Deion, Atl 6	106	17.7	170	1
Dickerson, Eric, Atl6	58	9.7	30	0
Whitaker, Danta, Chi	53	8.8	18	0
Dowdell, Marcus, N.O	46	7.7	t11	1
Tice, Mike, Minn	39	6.5	21	1
Gainer, Derrick, Dall	37	6.2	8	0
Hearst, Garrison, Phoe	18	3.0	9	0
Reed, Jake, Minn	65	13.0	18	0
Claiborne, Robert, T.B	61	12.2	16	0
Beach, Sanjay, S.F	59	11.8	t20 t21	1 2
Jones, Ernie, Rams	56 36	7.2	9	0
Stephens, John, G.B	31	6.2	10	0
Royster, Mazio, T.B	18	3.6	10	0
Harris, Rudy, T.B	48	12.0	25	0
Moore, Dave, T.B	47	11.8	119	1
Lang, David, Rams4	45	11.3	21	0
Truitt, Olanda, Minn 4	40	10.0	13	0
Evans, Chuck, Minn 4	39	9.8	21	0
Lewis, Darren, Chi	26	6.5	18	0
Coleman, Lincoln, Dall 4	24	6.0	10	0
Turner, Odessa, S.F3	64	21.3	32	0
Ware, Derek, Phoe3	45	15.0	27	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F	40	13.3	14	0
Moore, Ron, Phoe 3	16	5.3	6	0
Banks, Fred, MiaChi	45	22.5	26	0
Sydner, Jeff, Phil	42	21.0	31	0
LaChapelle, Sean, Rams2	23	11.5	14	0
Lewis, Ron, G.B2	21	10.5	17	0
Johnson, Jimmy, Det2	18	9.0	9	0
Wilson, Marcus, G.B2	18	9.0	11	0



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NFCstatistics

Clifton, Gregory, Wash 2	15	7.5	10	0
Chmura, Mark, G.B	13	6.5	7	0
Harris, Corey, G.B	11	5.5	6	0
Young, Steve, S.F	2	1.0	6	0

INTERCEPTIONS

Number: 14, Dick Lane, Los Angeles (1952) Yards: 301, Don Doll, Detroit (1949) Longest return: 102 yards,

Bob Smith, Detroit (1949) Erich Barnes, New York (1961)

TDs: 4, Eric Allen, Philadelphia (1993)

	YARDS		LONG	TC
Sanders, Deion, Att		13.0	0	4
Allen, Eric, Phil	201	33.5	194	
Butler, LeRoy, G.B	131	21.8	39	0
Smith, Kevin, Dall	56	9.3	132	1
Carter, Tom, Wash	54	9.0	29	0
McGruder, Michael, S.F	89	17.8	37	1
Glenn, Vencie, Minn 5	49	9.8	23	0
Carrier, Mark, Chi		23.5	134	1
Collins, Mark, Giants		19.3	150	1
Jones, Dante, Chi		13.0	22	(
Davis, Eric, S.F		11.3	141	1
McMillian, Audray, Minn		11.3	122	
Jackson, Greg, Giants		8.0	29	(
				(
Miano, Rich, Phil4		6.5	16	
Green, Darrell, Wash	10	2.5	6	(
Del Rio, Jack, Minn4	3	0.8	3	(
Lincoln, Jeremy, Chi 3	109	36.3		1
Hanks, Merton, S.F 3	104	34.7	167	I
Atkins, Gene, N.O.	59	19.7	37	(
King, Joe, T.B	29	9.7	28	1
McDonald, Tim, S.F.	23	7.7	21	1
Lee, Carl, Minn	20		19	-
Swilling, Pat, Det	16	5.3	14	
Lynch, Lorenzo, Phoe.		4.3	13	6
		2.3	7	1
Walker, Darnell, Atl.			3	
Griffin, Don, S.F.				
Williams, Aeneas, Phoe	87	43.5	146	B
Clark, Vinnie, All	59	29.5	38	D
Jamison, George, Det		24.0	135	
Bailey, Robert, Rams	41	20.5	41	
Holland, Johnny, G.B.	41	20.5	30	
Thomas, William, Phil	39	19.5	21	
Guyton, Myron, Giants	34	17.0	19	
Taylor, Keith, N.O.		16.0	30	
Buckley, Terrell, G.B.	31	15.5		0
Crockett, Ray, Det.	31	15.5		Ö
Buck, Vince, N.O.	2 28	14.0		
Dolon Hose Out	2 28	14.0		
Colon, Harry, Det.				
Coleman, Monte, Wash	2 27	13.5	14	
Scott, Todd, Ind.	2 26	13.0	26	
Bates, Bill, Dall.	2 25	12.5		
Everett, Thomas, Dall		12.5		
McMillian, Mark, Phil		12.5	17	
Booty, John, Phoe	2 24	12.0	19	
Rolling, Henry, Rams		10.5	12	
Simmons, Wayne, G.B		10.5	19	
McNeil, Ryan, Det		9.5		
Miller, Corey, Giants	2 18	9.0		
Woolford Donnell Chi	2 18	9.0		
Woolford, Donnell, Chi.				
Raymond, Corey, Giants	2 11	5.5		
McKyer, Tim, Det.	2 10			
Jenkins, Carlos, Minn		3.5		
Blaylock, Anthony, Chi				
Terrell, Pat, Rams	2 1	0.5		
Lyght, Todd, Rams	2 0	0.0	0	
Lygiil, 1000, name				

PUNT RETURNS

Number: 70, Danny Reece, Tampa Bay (1979) Yards: 646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1976) Longest for TD: 98 yards,

Gill Lefebvre, Cincinnati (1933) Charlie West, Minnesota (1968) Dennis Morgan, Dallas (1974)

NO.	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O37	21	503	13.6	t83	2
Carter, Dexter, S.F34	20	411	12.1	172	1
Williams, Kevin, Dall 36	14	381	10.6	164	2
Meggett, David, Giants 32	20	331	10.3	175	1
Grav Mel. Det 23	14	197	86	35	0

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NFCstatistics

20	275	8.3	25	0
20	289	8.3	.28	0
5	282	8.1	158	1
17	255	8.0	51	0
15	212	7.3	50	0
7	193	6.7	48	0
3	194	11.4	24	0
4	152	8.9	53	0
1	113	6.6	15	0
4	135	8.4	35	0
8	166	11.1	35	0
5	76	6.9	39	0
3	90	10.0	25	0
6	64	7.1	20	0
1	41	5.1	12	0
4	32	4.6	8	0
6	32	5.3	13	0
0	25	6.3	13	0
3	12	4.0	11	0
1	21	10.5	16	0
8	18	9.0	13	0
	20 5 17 15 7 3 4 1 4 8 5 3 6 1 4 6 0 3 1	20 289 5 282 17 255 15 212 7 193 3 194 4 152 1 1135 8 166 5 76 3 90 6 64 1 41 4 32 6 32 0 25 3 12 1 21	20 289 8.3 5 282 8.1 17 255 8.0 15 212 7.3 7 193 6.7 3 194 11.4 4 152 8.9 1 11.5 8.4 8 166 11.1 5 76 6.9 3 90 10.0 6 64 7.0 1 41 5.1 4 32 4.6 6 32 5.3 0 25 6.3 0 25 6.3 1 21 10.5	20 289 8.3 28 5 282 8.1 158 17 255 8.0 51 15 212 7.3 50 7 193 6.7 48 3 194 11.4 24 4 152 8.9 53 1 113 6.6 15 4 135 8.4 35 8 166 11.1 35 5 76 6.9 39 3 90 10.0 25 6 64 7.1 20 1 41 5.1 12 4 32 4.6 8 6 32 5.3 13 0 25 6.3 13 0 25 6.3 13 0 25 6.3 13 0 25 6.3 13 1 2 4.0 11 1 21 10.5 16

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Numbers: 60, Drew Hill, Los Angeles (1981) Yards: 1,345, Buster Rhymes, Minnesota (1985) Longest: 106 yards,

Al Carmichael, Green Bay (1956) Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)

TDs: 4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967) 4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)

NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TE
Brooks, Robert, G.B	611	26.6	195	1
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O30	753	25.1	t99	1
Smith, Tony, Atl	948	24.9	t97	1
Gray, Mel. Det	688	24.6	t95	1
Bailey, Johnny, Phoe	699	22.5	48	(
Williams, Kevin, Dall	689	22.2	49	(
smail, Qadry, Minn. 42	902	21.5	47	Č
Conway, Curtis, Chr	450	21.4	55	(
McAfee, Fred, N.O	580	20.7	55	(
Mitchell, Brian, Wash	678	20.7	68	0
	494			- 6
Carter, Dexter, S.F	377.0	19.8	60	(
Wilson, Charles, T.B	454	19.7	42	0
Sikahema, Vai. Phil30	579	19.3	35	(
Howard, Desmond, Wash 21	405	19.3	33	(
Turner, Vernon, DetT.B	391	18.6	46	(
Meggett, David, Giants 124	403	16.8	35	(
NON-QUALIFIERS (2 or more)				
Harris, Corey, G.B	482	30.1	65	0
Anderson, Gary, T.BDet 15	232	15.5	24	C
Boykin, Deral, Rams	216	16.6	29	C
Walker, Herschel, Phil	184	16.7	30	C
Lee, Amp. S.F	160	16.0	28	0
Wilson, Marcus, G.B	197	21.9	37	0
	171			0
Thompson, Darrell, G.B		19.0	42	
Obee, Terry, Chi9	159	17.7	34	0
Sydner, Jeff, Phil	158	17.6	36	0
Green, Robert, Chi9	141	15.7	30	0
Griffith, Howard, Rams8	169	21.1	29	0
Blount, Eric, Phoe8	163	20.4	27	0
Price, Mitchell. Rams 8	144	18.0	23	0
White, Russell, Rams8	122	15.3	35	0
Royster, Mazio, T.B	102	12.8	26	0
Sanders, Deion, Atl	169	24.1	31	0
Worley, Tim, PitChi	121	20.2	26	0
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	96	16.0	22	0
Calloway, Chris, Giants	89	14.8	21	0
Guliford, Eric, Minn	101	20.2	29	0
srael, Steve, Rams	92	18.4	23	0
Norkman, Vince, T.B	67	13.4	19	0
Pegram, Erric, All	63	15.8	28	0
Claiborne, Robert, T.B	57	14.3	33	0
Brown, Derek, N.O	58	19.3	23	0
Edwards, Anthony, Phoe 3	51	17.0		0
Malker Adam C.E.	1,500		20	
Walker, Adam, S.F	51	17.0	30	0
Smith, Robert, Minn	41	13.7	16	0
Hebron, Vaughn, Phil	35	11.7	18	0
Montgomery, Alton, All	53	26.5	33	0
Phillips, Jason, All2	38	19.0	29	0
Clay, Willie, Det2	34	17.0	20	0
Ervins, Ricky, Wash2	29	14.5	18	0
Jurkavic, John, G.B2	22	11.0	13	0
Cross, Howard, Giants	15	7.5	13	0

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SCORING

RECORDS

Points: 155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964) Touchdowns: 23, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975) Field Goals: 35, Jeff Jaeger, Los Angeles (1993) Extra points: 66, Uwe von Schamann, Miami (1984)

TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Denver42	13	27	2	41	42	26	35	1	373
Houston40	11	23	6	. 39	40	29	34	1	368
Miami40	10	27	3	37	40	24	32	0	349
Buffalo37	12	20	5	36	37	23	32	1	329
Kansas City37	14	20	3	37	37	23	29	0	328
San Diego33	14	18	1	31	33	31	40	0	322
Pittsburgh32	13	16	3	32	32	28	30	0	308
L.A. Raiders29	10	17	2	27	29	35	44	0	306
Cleveland36	8	23	5	36	36	16	22	2	304
Seattle29	13	13	3	29	29	23	28	4	280
N.Y. Jets31	14	16	1	31	31	17	26	1	270
New England26	9	17	0	25	25	19	31	0	238
Indianapolis16	4	10	2	15	16	26	31	0	189
Cincinnati16	3	11	2	13	16	24	31	3	187

KICKERS

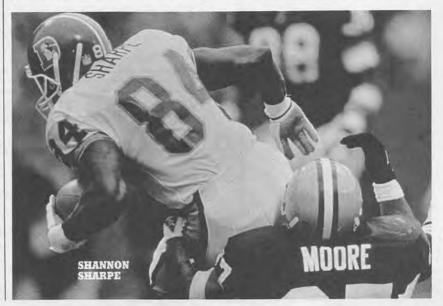
XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Jaeger, Jeff, Raiders27	29	35	44	132
Del Greco, Al, Hou39	40	29	34	126
Carney, John, S.D31	33	31	40	124
Elam, Jason, Den 41	42	26	35	119
Anderson, Gary, Pit 32	32	28	30	116
Stoyanovich, Pete, Mia37	37	24	32	109
Lowery, Nick, K.C37	37	23	29	106
Christie, Steve, Buf36	37	23	32	105
Kasay, John, Sea 29	29	23	28	98
Biasucci, Dean, Ind 15	16	26	31	93
Pelfrey, Doug, Cin	16	24	31	85
Stover, Matt, Cle	36	16	22	84
Blanchard, Cary, Jets31	31	17	26	82
Bahr, Matt, PhiN.E28	29	13	18	67
Sisson, Scott, N.E	15	14	26	57

	Brooks, Bill, Buf5	0	5	0	30
	Carrier, Mark, Cle 5	1	3	1	30
	Culver, Rodney, Ind 5	3	1	1	30
	Fryar, Irving, Mia 5	0	5	0	30
	Green, Eric, Pit	0	5	0	30
	Hoge, Merril, Pit 5	11	4	0	30
	Hostetler, Jeff, Raiders 5	5	0	0	30
١	Johnson, Vance, Den5	0	5	0	30
١	Martin, Kelvin, Sea5	0	5	0	30
l	Metcalf, Eric, Cle 5	1	2	2	30
١	Slaughter, Webster, Hou 5	0	5	0	30
l	Bernstine, Rod, Den 4	4	0	0	24
l	Burkett, Chris, Jets4	0	4	0	24
l	Butts, Marion, S.D 4	4	0	0	24
ĺ	Cash, Keith, K.C 4	0	4	0	24
ı	Givins, Ernest, Hou 4	0	4	0	24
l	Johnson, Johnny, Jets 4	3	1	0	24
l	Lewis, Nate, S.D 4	0	4	0	24

McCardell, Keenan, Cle 4	0	4	0	24
Metzelaars, Pete, Buf,	0	4	0	24
Query, Jeff, Cin4	0	4	0	24
Russell, Derek, Den 4	0	3	1	24
Vardell, Tommy, Cle	3	1	0	24
Williams, John L., Sea	3	1	0	24
Wright, Alexander, Raiders 4	0	4	0	24
Beebe, Don, Buf	0	3	0	18
Blades, Brian, Sea	0	3	0	18
Cook Korn, Ind	0	3	0	18
Cash, Kerry, Ind	0	3	0	18
Duncan, Curtis, Hou	3	0	0	18
Higgs, Mark, Mia3	0	3	0	18
Jett, James, Raiders3	0	3	0	18
Langhorne, Reggie, Ind3	0	3	0	18
Martin, Tony, Mia3	3		0	18
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders 3	1.00	0	0	18
Milburn, Glyn, Den3	0			18
Mirer, Rick, Sea3	3	0	0	
Stone, Dwight, Pit3	1	2	0	18
Thigpen, Yancey, Pit3	0	3	0	18
Thompson, Leroy, Pit3	3	0	0	18
Rivers, Reggie, Den2	1	1	0	*14
Birden, J.J., K.C2	0	2	0	12
Brisby, Vincent, N.E2	0	2	0	12
Carlson, Cody, Hou2	2	0	0	12
Edmunds, Ferrell, Sea 2	0	2	0	12
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D2	0	2	0	12
Jefferson, Shawn, S.D2	0	2	0	12
Kinchen, Brian, Cle2	0	2	0	12
Marshall, Arthur, Den2	0	2	0	12
McDuffie, O.J., Mia	0	0	2	12
McNair, Todd, K.C2	2	0	0	12
Thornton, James, Jets2	0	2	0	12
Tillman, Cedric, Den2	0	2	0	12
Timpson, Michael, N.E2	0	2	0	12
Turner, Kevin, N.E	0	2	0	12
White, Lorenzo, Hou2	2	0	0	12
Young, Duane, S.D2	0	2	0	12
Stephens, Rod, Sea 1	0	0	1	*10
Jones, Henry, Buf 1	0	0	1	*8
Anders, Kimble, K.C 1	0	1	0	6
Baldwin, Randy, Cle 1	0	1	0	6
Ball, Eric, Cin 1	1	0	0	6

NON-KICKERS

TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Allen, Marcus, K.C 15	12	3	0	90
Foster, Barry, Pit9	8	1	0	54
Sharpe, Shannon, Den9	0	9	0	54
Brown, Gary, Hou 8	6	2	0	48
Brown, Tim, Raiders 8	0	7	1	48
Coates, Ben, N.E 8	0	8	0	48
Delpino, Robert, Den 8	8	0	0	48
Jackson, Michael, Cle 8	0	8	0	48
Means, Natrone, S.D 8	8	0	0	48
Baxter, Brad, Jets7	7	0	0	42
Davis, Willie, K.C 7	0	7	0	42
Miller, Anthony, S.D7	0	7	0	42
Russell, Leonard, N.E 7	7	0	0	42
Warren, Chris, Sea 7	7	0	0	42
Byars, Keith, Mia 6	3	3	0	36
Davis, Kenneth, Buf 6	6	0	0	36
Ingram, Mark, Mia 6	0	6	0	36
Jackson, Keith, Mia 6	0	6	0	36
Jeffires, Haywood, Hou 6	0	6	0	36
Kirby, Terry, Mia 6	3	3	0	36
Mitchell, Johnny, Jets	0	6	0	36
Pickens, Carl, Cin 6	0	6	0	36
Reed, Andre, Buf 6	0	6	0	36
Thomas, Thurman, Buf 6	6	0	0	36



Barnett, Tim, K.C	0	1	0	6
Baty, Greg, Mia	0	1	0	6
Baxter, Fred. Jets	0	1	0	6
Bell, Nick, Raiders 1	1	0	0	6
Bieniemy, Eric. S.D	1	0	0	6
Blackmon, Robert, Sea	0	0	1	6
Brim, Michael, Cin	0	0	1	6
Chaffey, Pat, Jets	0	1	0	6
Childress, Ray, Hou	0	0	1	6
Cook, Marv, N.E	0	1	0	6
Copeland, Russell, But	0	0	1	6
Crittenden, Ray, N.E	0	1	0	6
Croel, Mike, Den	0	0	1	6
Croom, Corey, N.E	1	0	0	6
Davidson, Kenny, Pit 1	0	0	1	6
Dawkins, Sean, Ind 1	0	1	0	6
Dishman, Cris, Hou1	0	0	1	6
Esiason, Boomer, Jets	1	0	0	6
Fenner, Derrick, Cin 1	1	0	0	6
Frank, Donald, S.D 1	0	0	1	6
Gardner, Carwell, But	0	1	0	6
Gash, Sam, N.E	1	0	0	6
Glover, Andrew, Raiders 1	0	1	0	6
Green, Paul, Sea 1	0	1	0	6
Harris, Leonard, Hou	0	1	0	6
Hayes, Jonathan, K.C 1	0	1	0	6
Herrod, Jeff, Ind 1	0	0	1	6
Hester, Jessie, Ind 1	0	1	0	6
Horton, Ethan, Raiders1	0	1	0	6
Ismail, Raghib, Raiders1	0	1	0	6
Jackson, Steve, Hou 1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, Anthony, Ind 1	1	0	0	6
Johnson, Reggie, Den	0	1	0	6

Murrell, Adrian, Jets 1	1	0	0	6
Mustafaa, Najee, Cle	0	0	1	6
Nash, Joe, Sea	0	0	1	6
Odomes, Nate, But 1	0	0	1	6
Oliver, Louis, Mia 1	0	0	1	6
Orlando, Bo, Hou 1	0	0	1	6
Philcox, Todd. Cle	1	0	0	6
Robertson, Marcus, Hou 1	0	0	1	6
Robinson, Greg, Raiders	1	0	0	6
Saleaumua, Dan, K.C	0	0	1	6
Talley, Darryl, Buf	0	0	1	6
Thomas, Blair, Jets 1	3	0	0	6
Thomas, Derrick, K.C1	0	0	1	6
Thompson, Craig, Cin 1	0	1	0	6
Tillman, Lawyer, Cle 1	0	1	0	6
Tillman, Spencer, Hou	0	1	0	6
Valerio, Joe, K.C 1	0	1	0	6
Verdin, Clarence, Ind 1	0	1	0	6
Walker, Derrick, S.D 1	0	1	0	6
Washington, Brian, Jets 1	0	0	1	6
Washington, Mickey, Buf	0	0	1	6
Wellman, Gary, Hou 1	0	1	0	6
Williams, Darryl, Cin	0	0	1	6
Wolfley, Ron, Cle 1	0	1	0	6
Woodson, Rod, Pit 1	0	0	1	6
Wyman, David, Den1	0	1	0	6
Edwards, Antonio, Sea 0	0	0	0	*2
Pleasant, Anthony, Cle 0	0	0	0	*2
Riddick, Louis, Cle 0	0	0	0	*2
Williams, Alfred, Cin 0 *Salety	0	0	0	*2
Team safeties: Cincinnati (2), Houston, New	York, S	Seattle		

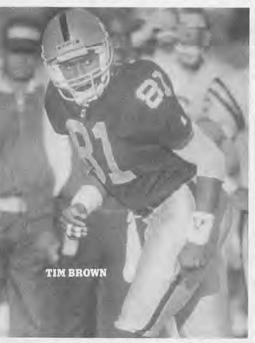
RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 390, Barry Foster, Pittsburgh (1992) Yards: 2,003, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973) TDs: 19, Earl Campbell, Houston (1979)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TO
Seattle	473	2015	4.3	145	13
Pittsburgh	491	2003	4.1	t38	13
Buffalo	550	1943	3.5	27	12
N.Y. Jets	521	1880	3.6	t57	14
San Diego	455	1824	4.0	t65	14
Houston	409	1792	4.4	35	11
New England	502	1780	3.5	49	9
Cleveland	425	1701	4.0	55	8
Denver		1693	3.6	26	13
Kansas City	445	1655	3.7	47	14
Cincinnati	423	1511	3.6	29	3
Miami	419	1459	3.5	t77	10
L.A. Raiders	433	1425	3.3	19	10
Indianapolis	365	1288	3.5	34	4
1 or more vende	150	Winne	illo	ana.	-

mulanapons	1288	3.5	34	4
1 or more yards ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Thomas, Thurman, Buf 355	1315	3.7	27	6
Russell, Leonard, N.E300	1088	3.6	21	7
Warren, Chris, Sea	1072	3.9	145	7
Brown, Gary, Hou 195	1002	5.1	26	6
Johnson, Johnny, Jets 198	821	4.1	157	3
Bernstine, Rod, Den	816	3.7	24	4
Allen, Marcus, K.C	764	3.7	39	12
Thompson, Leroy, Pit 205	763	3.7	36	3
Butts, Marion, S.D 185	746	4.0	27	4
Foster, Barry, Pit 177	711	4.0	38	8
Potts, Roosevelt, Ind	711	4.0	34	0
Higgs, Mark, Mia 186	693	3.7	31	3
Means, Natrone, S.D 160	645	4.0	165	8
Vardell, Tommy, Cle 171	644	3.8	54	3
Metcalf, Eric, Cle 129	611	4.7	55	1
Robinson, Greg, Raiders 156	591	3.8	16	1
Green, Harold, Cin	589	2.7	25	0
Baxter, Brad, Jets 174	559	3.2	16	7
Fenner, Derrick, Cin 121	482	4.0	26	1
White, Lorenzo, Hou 131	465	3.5	14	2
Delpino, Robert, Den 131	445	3.4	18	8
Davis, Kenneth, But 109	391	3.6	19	6
Kirby, Terry, Mia119	390	3.3	20	3
Williams, John L., Sea 82	371	4.5	38	3
Mirer, Rick, Sea	343	5.0	33	3
Johnson, Anthony, Ind 95	331	3.5	14	1



Johnson, Tracy, Sea 1	0	1	0	6
Jones, James, Cle 1	.1	0	0	6
Kidd, John, S.D 1	1	0	0	6
Kirkland, Levon, Pit 1	0	0	1	6
Lewis, Albert, K.C 1	0	0	1	6
Lewis, Darryll, Hou 1	0	0	1	6
Mack, Kevin, Cle1	1	0	0	6
Marino, Dan, Mia1	1	0	0	6
Mathis, Terance, Jels 1	1	0	0	6
McDaniel, Terry, Raiders1	0	0	1	6
McKeller, Keith, Buf	0	1	0	6
McMurtry, Greg, N.E	0	1	0	6
Miles, Ostell, Cin 1	1	0	0	6
Mills, Ernie, Pit 1	0	1	0	6
Moon, Warren, Hou 1	1	0	0	6
Moore, Rob, Jets 1	0	1	0	6
Moore, Stevon, Cle 1	0	0	1	6

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QBs	
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TD-Pass	5 pts
Ea. 25 yds	1 pts
300+yd gm	5 pts
50+yd score	5 pts

RBS & WR	S
TD-Run	7 pts
TD-Pass	5 pts
Ea. 10 yds	1 pts
125+yd gm	5 pts
50+yd score	5 pts

2- pt Conv.					
Run	3 pts				
Pass	2 pts				
	Kickers				

PAT	3 pts
FGs Under 35 yd	5 pts
35-49 yds	7 pts
50+ yds	10 pts

12 pts
5 pts
4 pts

Defense	
TD	7 pts
Sack	2 pts
Safety	5 pts
4th dn/stop	4 pts
2-pt/stop	3 pts
Shutout	10 pts

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PASSING

RECORDS Completions: 404, Warren Moon, Houston (1991) Touchdowns: 48, Dan Marino, Miami (1984) Yards: 5,084, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Jim Plunkett to Cliff Branch, Los Angeles (1983)

				and the second		-		_				
ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	10.000	CT TD	LONG	INT	PCT INT		YDS LOST	RATING
Elway, John, Den551	348	63.2	4030	7.31	25	4.5	63	10	1.8	39	293	92.8
Montana, Joe, K.C298	181	60.7	2144	7.19	13	4.4	t50	7	2.3	12	61	87.4
Testaverde, Vinny, Cle230	130	56.5	1797	7.81	14	6.1	162	9	3,9	17	101	85.7
Esiason, Boomer, Jets473	288	60.9	3421	7.23	16	3.4	77	11	2.3	18	139	84.5
Mitchell, Scott, Mia233	133	57.1	1773	7.61	12	5.2	177	8	3.4	7	49	84.2
Hostetler, Jeff, Raiders419	236	56.3	3242	7.74	14	3.3	174	10	2.4	38	206	82.5
Kelly, Jim, Buf470	288	61.3	3382	7.20	18	3.8	t65	18	3.8	25	171	79.9
O'Donnell, Neil, Pil	270	55.6	3208	6.60	14	2.9	171	7	1.4	41	331	79.5
George, Jeff, Ind407	234	57.5	2526	6.21	8	2.0	172	6	1.5	26	190	76.3
DeBerg, Steve, T.BMia227	136	59.9	1707	7.52	7	3.1	47	10	4.4	18	143	75.3
Moon, Warren, Hou520	303	58.3	3485	6.70	21	4.0	t80	21	4.0	34	218	75.2
Friesz, John, S.D238	128	53.8	1402	5,89	6	2.5	166	4	1.7	14	98	72.8
Humphries, Stan, S.D324	173	53.4	1981	6.11	12	3.7	148	10	3.1	18	142	71.5
Mirer, Rick, Sea486	274	56.4	2833	5.83	12	2.5	t53	17	3.5	47	235	
Klingler, David, Cin343	190	55.4	1935	5.64	6	1.7	51	9	2.6	40	202	66.6
Bledsoe, Drew, N.E429	214	49.9	2494	5.81	15	3.5	154	15	3.5	16	99	65.0
NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more a	ttempts,)									- 43	
Reich, Frank, Buf26	16	61.5	153	5.88	2	7.7	130	0				103.5
Marino, Dan, Mia150	91	60.7	1218	8.12	8	5.3	t80	3				95.9
Krieg, Dave, K.C189	105	55.6	1238	6.55	7	3.7	166	3				81.4
Evans, Vince, Raiders76	45	59.2	640	8.42	3	3.9	168	4				77.7
Schroeder, Jay, Cin159	78	49.1	832	5.23	5	3.1	37	2				70.0
Carlson, Cody, Hou90	51	56.7	605	6.72	2	2.2	47	4		-		66.2
Nagle, Browning, Jels14	6	42.9	71	5.07	0	0.0	18	0				58.9
Trudeau, Jack, Ind162		52.5	992	6.12	2	1.2	68	7	4.3			57.4
Philcox, Todd, Cle108		48.1	699	6.47	4	3.7	56	7				54.5
Secules, Scott, N.E134		56.0	918	6.85	2	1.5	82	9			28	54.3
Tomczak, Mike, Pit54		53.7	398	7.37	2	3.7	139	5			43	51.3
Majkowski, Don, Ind24		54.2	105	4.38	0	0.0	17	1	4.2	1	5	48.1

BLK

0

0

0

0

28

33

47

49

47

41

28

43

50

34

35

29

32

26

6

249

337

475

438

416

352

243

352

678

313

301

247

359

33

16

5 0

12

3

0

45.6

43.3 13

42.6

42.5

42.4

41.8

40.4

38.4

40.9

62 45.0

64 44.5

72 44.3

60 43.9

65

67

59 42.6

61

59

61

58

56 39.7

71

50

46 38.8

47

30

26 0

30

0

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3

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Milburn, Glyn, Den. Turner, Kevin, N.E. Hoard, Leroy, Cle. Thomas, Blair, Jets Harmon, Ronnie, S.D. Hostetler, Jeff, Raiders. Croom, Corey, N.E. Bell, Nick, Raiders... Murrell, Adrian, Jets

231 227 56 4.1 59 221 3.7 24 46 216 4.7 19 55 202 3.7 19 60 198 3.3 22 Stephens, John, G.B.-K.C. 54 191 3.5 22 180 2.7 157 4.6 137 47 156 3.3 13 Smith, Steve, Raiders. Elway, John, Den. 153 3.5 18 Vaughn, Jon, Sea. 153 4.3 37 Culver, Rodney, Ind. 150 2.3 9 48 149 3.1 14 Gash Sam N.F. Williams, Harvey, K.C. 42 149 3.5 19

Average: 46.9 yards, Greg Montgomery, Houston (1992)

67

90

82

90

83

57

76

89

58

2462

3017

4007

3632

3954

3595

2431

3240

3781

3096

2971

2991

2304

2806

614

5.5

4.2 177 3

4.6 49

291 3.9 18 0

282 6.9 29 0

249 4.9

231 44

41

51 278

64 269

51

52

50

Longest: 98 yards, Steve O'Neal, New York (1969)

Montgomery, Greg, Hou.

Rouen, Tom, Den

Tuten, Rick, Sea.

Hansen, Brian, Cle

Johnson, Lee, Cin.

Stark Rohn, Ind.

Kidd, John, S.D.

Barker, Bryan, K.C.

Royals, Mark, Pit...

Saxon, Mike, N.E.

Mohr, Chris, Buf.

Hatcher, Dale, Mia

Aguiar, Louie, Jets

NON-QUALIFIERS

Carney, John, S.D...

Anders, Kimble, K.C.

Klingler, David, Cin.

McNair, Todd, K.C.

Byars, Keith, Mia.

Hoge, Merril, Pit.

Sullivan, Kent, S.D.-Hou.-S.D...... 15

Leader based on average, minimum 40 punts

Gossett, Jeff, Raiders

Moon, Warren, Hou. 135 4.1 12 Bieniemy, Eric, S.D. 33 121 10.1 t38 Stone, Dwight, Pit. 118 2.6 17 Esiason Boomer Jets McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders .. 37 114 3.1 111 4.3 27 O'Donnell, Neil, Pit. 26 Montgomery, Tyrone, Raiders .. 15 106 2.9 37 2.8 102 Kelly, Jim, Buf. 36 94 10.4 34 0 Tillman, Spencer, Hou. 32 Mitchell, Scott, Mia. ... 89 4.2 Bledsoe, Drew, N.E. 32 82 26 15 74 14 0 Testaverde, Vinny, Cle. 18 4.1 2.6 17 0 Montana, Joe, K.C. 25 64 Baldwin, Randy, Cle. 18 61 3.4 11 0 Gardner, Carwell, Buf. 20 56 2.8 8 0 Miles, Ostell, Cin. 22 56 2.5 15 Jefferson, Shawn, S.D. ... 5 53 10.6 33 Blades, Brian, Sea. .. 52 10.4 26 0 Evans, Vince, Raiders 51 3.6 17 0 Rivers, Reggie, Den. .. 50 3.3 14 Carlson, Cody, Hou.

13

21 15

24

18

16

19

28

25

19

19

13

21

NET AVG

39.1

37.1

37.3

35.6

36.6

35.9

35.9

35.4

34.2

34.8

35.1

36.0

32.2

34.4

37.4

34.8

174

Schroeder, Jay, Cin	41	4.1	20	0
George, Jeff, Ind	39	3.0	14	0
Ball, Eric, Cin	37	4.6	18	1
Humphries, Stan, S.D	37	4.6	27	0
Turner Note Pul	36		10	
Turner, Nate, Bul		3.3		0
Jones, Fred, K.C	34	6.8	13	0
Jordan, Randy, Raiders	33	2.8	12	0
Mack, Kevin, Cle	33	3.3	7	1
Secules, Scott, N.E	33	4.1	13	0
Verdin, Clarence, Ind 3	33	11.0	29	0
Brooks, Bill, But	30	10.0	15	0
Thompson, Ernie, K.C	28	2.5	14	0
Carrier, Mark, Gle 4	26	6.5	115	1
Krieg, Dave, K.C	24	1.1	20	0
Reed, Andre, Buf	21	2.3	15	0
Mathis, Terance, Jels	20	10.0	117	1
Givins, Ernest, Hou	19	3.2	16	0
Chaffey, Pat, Jets 5	17	3.4	7	0
Parmalee, Bernie, Mia 4	16	4.0	12	0
Query, Jeff, Cin	13	6.5	8	0
Saxon, James, Mia 5	13	2.6	9	0
Bates, Michael, Sea	12	6.0	6	0
Mills, Ernie, Pit	12	4.0	19	Ď
Stark, Rohn, Ind	11	11.0	11	0
Maston, Le'Shai, Hou 1	10	10.0	10	0
Richardson, Bucky, Hou	9	4.5	11	0
Johnson, Tracy, Sea	8	4.0	5	0
Brown, Tim, Raiders	7	3.5	14	0
Cuthbert, Randy, Pit	7	7.0	7	0
				-
Martin, Tony, Mia.	6	6.0	6	0
Robinson, Patrick, Cin	6	6.0	6	0
Toner, Ed. Ind	6	3.0	6	0
Wellman, Gary, Hou 2	6	3.0	4	0
Benjamin, Ryan, Cin	5	1.7	2	0
, Majkowski, Don, Ind2	4	2.0	4	0
Thomas, Doug, Sea 1	4	4.0	4	0
Barnett, Tim, K.C.	3	3.0	3	0
Friesz, John, S.D	3	0.3	2	0
Philcox, Todd. Cle	3	1.5	13	1
Trudeau, Jack, Ind5	3	0.6	2	0
Carter, Dale, K.C	2	2.0	2	0
Jones, James, Cle 2	2	1.0	11	1
Lewis, Nate, S.D	2	0.7	7	0
Mayes, Rueben, Sea	2	2.0	2	0
Saxon, Mike, N.E	2	1.0	2	0
Coleman, Pat, Hou	1	1.0	1	0
Jackson, Michael, Cle	1	1.0	1	0
1 Touchdown	,	1.0		U
/ rubunoswit				

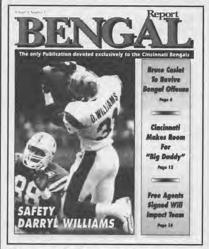
PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS Receptions: 101, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1964) Yards: 1,746, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1961) TDs: 18, Mark Clayton, Miami (1984)

2 or more receptions	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD	
Langhorne, Reggie, Ind	85	1038	12.2	172	3	
Miller, Anthony, S.D.		1162	13.8	166	7	
Sharpe, Shannon, Den	81	995	12.3	63	9	
Brown, Tim, Raiders		1180	14.8	171	7	
Blades, Brian, Sea	80	945	11.8	41	3	
Slaughter, Webster, Hou	77	904	11.7	41	5	
Kirby, Terry, Mia.	75	874	11.7	47	3	
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	73	671	9.2	37	2	
Givins, Ernest, Hou	68	887	13.0	t80	4	
Metzelaars, Pete, Buf	68	609	9.0	51	4	
Johnson, Johnny, Jets	67	641	9.6	48	1	
Jeffires, Haywood, Hou	66	753	11.4	166	6	
Fryar, Irving, Mia.	64	1010	15.8	165	5	
Moore, Rob. Jets	64	843	13.2	51	1	
Hester, Jessie, Ind	64	835	13.0	58	1	
Green, Eric, Pit	63	942	15.0	171		
Metcalf, Eric, Cle	63	539	8.6	149	2	
Byars, Keith, Mia.	61	613	10.0	27	3	
Brooks, Bill, But,	60	714	11.9	32	5	
Williams, John L., Sea	58	450	7.8	25	1	
Martin, Kelvin, Sea	57	798	14.0	153	5	
Query, Jeff, Cin			11.7	51	4	
Johnson, Anthony, Ind.	55		8.1		0	
Coates, Ben. N.E.		659	12.4		8	
Davis, Willie, K.C.		909	17.5		7	
Reed, Andre, Buf		854	16.4	165	6	
Birden, J.J., K.C		721	14.1		2	
Fenner, Derrick, Cin			8.9		0	
Thomas, Thurman, Bul			8.1		0	
Brisby, Vincent, N.E.			13.9		2	
Russell, Derek, Den	44	719	16.3	43	3	

McGee, Tony, Cin	525	11.9	37	0
Bernstine, Rod, Den 44	372	8.5	41	0
Carrier, Mark, Cle 43	746	17.3	55	3
Pickens, Carl, Cin	565	13.1	36	6
Horton, Ethan, Raiders	467	10.9	32	1
Cash, Kerry, Ind	402	9.3	37	3
Timpson, Michael, N.E 42	654	15.6	48	2
Jackson, Michael, Cle 41	756	18.4	162	8
Stone, Dwight, Pit41	587	14.3	44	2
Duncan, Curtis, Hou41	456	11.1	47	3
Burkett, Chris, Jets40	531	13.3	77	4
Anders, Kimble, K.C 40	326	8.2	27	1
Mitchell, Johnny, Jets	630	16.2	t65	6
Jackson, Keith, Mia39	613	15.7	157	6
Turner, Kevin, N.E39	333	8.5	26	2
Graham, Jeffrey, Pit	579	15.2	51	0
Lewis, Nate, S.D	463	12.2	47	4
Milburn, Glyn, Den38	300	7.9	50	3
Thompson, Leroy, Pil	259	6.8	28	0
Johnson, Vance, Den36	517	14.4	56	5
Hoard, Leroy, Cle	351	10.0	41	0
Allen, Marcus, K.C 34	238	7.0	118	3
White, Lorenzo, Hou34	229	6.7	20	0
Jett, James, Raiders 33	771	23.4	174	3
Hoge, Merril, Pit 33	247	7.5	18	4
Beebe, Don, Buf31	504	16.3	165	3
Wellman, Gary, Hou 31	430	13.9	44	1
Jefferson, Shawn, S.D30	391	13.0	t39	2
Mills, Ernie, Pit29	386	13.3	30	1
Kinchen, Brian, Cle29	347	12.0	40	2
Marshall, Arthur, Den	360	12.9	40	2
Wright, Alexander, Raiders 27	462	17.1	t68	4.
Foster, Barry, Pit27	217	8.0	21	1
Dawkins, Sean, Ind	430	16.5	68	1
Ismail, Raghib, Raiders	353	13.6	143	1
Russell, Leonard, N.E	245	9.4	69	0
Delpino, Robert, Den	195	7.5	25	0
Potts, Roosevelt, Ind	189	7.3	24	0
Mathis, Terance, Jets24	352	14.7	46	0
Hayes, Jonathan, K.C24	331	13.8	49	1
Cash, Keith, K.C24	242	10.1	24	4
Edmunds, Ferrell, Sea	239	10.0	32	2
Green, Paul, Sea	178	7.7	20	1
McMurtry, Greg, N.E	241	11.0	20	1
Cook, Marv, N.E	154	7.0	17	1
Green, Harold, Cin	115	5.2	16	0
Brown, Gary, Hou	240	11.4	138	2
Walker, Derrick, S.D	212	10.1	125	1
Davis, Kenneth, Buf	95	4.5	28	0
Martin, Tony, Mia	347	17.4	t80	3
Johnson, Reggie, Den	243	12.2	38	1
Baxter, Brad, Jets	158	7.9	24	0
McDuffie, D.J., Mia	197	10.4	18	0
Vardell, Tommy, Cle	151	7.9	128	1
Smith, Steve, Raiders	187	10.4	22	0
Tillman, Cedric, Den	193	11.4	30	2
Barnett, Tim, K.C	182	10.7	25	1
Thompson, Craig, Cin	87	5.1	10	1
Crittenden, Ray, N.E	293	18.3	44	1
Robinson, Greg, Raiders	142	9.5	58	0
Butts, Marion, S.D	105	7.0	23	0
Warren, Chris, Sea	99	6.6	21	0
Arbuckle, Charles, Ind	90	6.0	23	0
Gash. Sam, N.E	93	6.6	15	0
Copeland, Russell, Buf	242	18.6	60	0
McCardell, Keenan, Cle 13	234	18.0	43	4
Pupunu, Alfred, S.D	142	10.9	28	0
Thornton, James, Jets	108	9.0	22	2
Culver, Rodney, Ind	112	10.2	26	1
Bell, Nick, Raiders11	111	10.1	18	0
Thomas, Doug, Sea	95	8.6	20	0
Barnes, Johnnie, S.D 10	137	13.7	21	0
McNair, Todd, K.C 10	74	7.4	24	0
Higgs, Mark, Mia 10	72	7.2	15	0
Means, Natrone, S.D 10	59	5.9	11	0
Montgomery, Tyrone, Raiders 10	43	4.3	9	0
Thigpen, Yancey, Pit9	154	17.1	139	3
Coleman, Pat, Hou9	129	14.3	25	0
Cooper, Adrian, Pit9	112	12.4	38	0
Jones, Fred, K.C 9	111	12.3	19	0
Rembert, Reggie, Cin 8	101	12.6	21	0
Croom, Corey, N.E 8	92	11.5	21	0
Kimbrough, Tony, Den 8	79	9.9	16	0
Robinson, Patrick, Cin 8	72	9.0	14	0
Gault, Willie, Raiders 8	64	8.0	12	0
Jones, Hassan, K.C7	91	13.0	22	0

Ingram, Mark, Mia. McGee, Tony, Cin.



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AFCstatistics

Dyal, Mike, K.C	83	11.9	31	0
Thomas, Robb, Sea 7	67	9.6	16	0
Williams, Harvey, K.C7	42	6.0	14	0
Thomas, Blair, Jels	25	3.6	7	0
Miles, Ostell, Cin	89	14.8	27	0
Carpenter, Rob, Jets	83	13.8	18	0
Carroll, Wesley, Cin	81	13.5	28	0
Rivers, Reggie, Den 6	59	9.8	17	1
Frisch, David, Cin	43	7.2	12	0
Young, Duane, S.D	41	6.8	t12	2
Baty, Greg, Mia 5	78	15.6	32	1
Tillman, Lawyer, Cle5	68	13.6	18	1
Wolfley, Ron, Cle5	25	5.0	9	1
Murrell, Adrian, Jets 5	12	2.4	8	0
Cox. Aaron. Ind 4	59	14.8	24	0
Chaffey, Pat, Jets 4	55	13.8	120	1
Glover, Andrew, Raiders 4	55	13.8	26	1
Smith, Rico, Cle 4	55	13.8	17	0
Harris, Leonard, Hou 4	53	13.3	117	1
Davenport, Charles, Pit 4	51	12.8	19	0
Gardner, Carwell, Buf	50	12.5	22	1
Jordan, Randy, Raiders 4	42	10.5	33	0
Ball Fric Cin. 4	39	9.8	24	0
Thompson, Ernie, K.C 4	33	8.3	13	0
Baxter, Fred, Jets	48	16.0	25	1
Hastings, Andre, Pit 3	44	14.7	18	0
Rowe, Patrick, Cle	37	12.3	16	0
McKeller, Keith, But	35	11.7	113	1
Johnson, Tracy, Sea	15	5.0	8	1
Brown, Reggie, Hou2	30	15.0	26	0
Tasker, Steve, Buf	26	13.0	22	0
Brown, Troy, N.E	22	11.0	14	0
Verdin, Clarence, Ind 2	20	10.0	19	1
Awalt, Robert, Buf	19	9.5	10	0
Miller, Scott, Mia	15	7.5	8	0
Sadowski, Troy, Jets	14	7.0	11	0
Thomason, Jeff, Cin	8	4.0	5	0
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders 2	5	2.5	3	0

INTERCEPTIONS

Number: 13, Lester Hayes, Oakland (1980) Yards: 349, Charlie McNeil, San Diego (1961) Longest return: 103 yards,

Vencie Glenn, San Diego (1987) Louis Oliver, Miami (1992)

TDs: 4,	Ken Houston	, Houston (1971)
4,	Jim Kearney	Kansas City (1972)

2 or more NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TE
Robinson, Eugene, Sea 9	80	8.9	28	(
Odomes, Nate, But		7.2	25	(
Woodson, Rod, Pit	138	17.3	t63	1
Robertson, Marcus, Hou	137	19.6	69	0
Carrington, Darren, S.D.	104	14.9	28	(
Washington, Brian, Jets 6	128	21.3	t62	1
Dishman, Cris, Hou6	74	12.3	30	(
Lewis, Albert, K.C.	61	10.2	24	(
McDaniel, Terry, Raiders		17.4	136	1
Jackson, Steve, Hou	5 54	10.8	122	1
Mincy, Charles, K.C.	44	8.8	20	(
Brown, J.B., Mia	43	8.6	29	(
Turner, Eric, Cle	25	5.0	19	(
Perry, Darren, Pit	61	15.3	30	(
Hunter, Patrick, Sea	54	13.5	34	(
Hurst, Maurice, N.E.	53	13.3	24	(
Buchanan, Ray, Ind	45	11.3	28	(
Lake, Carnell, Pit	31	7.8	26	(
Frank, Donald, S.D.	119	39.7	1102	1
Brim, Michael, Cin.	3 74	24.7	30	
Talley, Darryl, But	3 74	24.7	t61	1
Orlando, Bo, Hou	68	22.7	t38	
Smith, Dennis, Den	3 57	19.0	36	(
Johnson, David, Pit	51	17.0	26	(
Braxton, Tyrone, Den	37	12.3	25	(
Lott, Ronnie, Jets	35	11.7	29	(
Gray, Carlton, Sea	33	11.0	16	(
McDowell, Bubba, Hou	3 31	10.3	13	(
Baylor, John, Ind 3	3 11	3.7	7	(
Jones, Selwyn, Cle		0.0	0	(
Wren, Darryl, N.E.		-2.3		(
Williams, Darryl, Cin	126	63.0	197	

Jones, Henry, Buf 2	92	46.0	t85	1
Atwater, Steve, Den2	81	40.5	68	0
Oliver, Louis, Mia2	60	30.0	t56	1
Seau, Junior, S.D	58	29.0	42	0
Anderson, Eddie, Raiders	52	26.0	27	0
Ross, Kevin, K.C	49	24.5	48	0
Hoskins, Derrick, Raiders	34	17.0	20	0
Darby, Matt, Buf 2	32	16.0	32	0
Vincent, Troy, Mia 2	29	14.5	23	0
Hasty, James, Jets	22	11.0	22	0
Thomas, Eric, Jets2	20	10.0	20	0
White, Sheldon, Cin 2	19	9.5	14	0
Bayless, Martin, K.C	14	7.0	16	0
Pope, Marquez, S.D	14	7.0	12	0
Dronett, Shane, Den	13	6.5	7	0
Francis, James, Cin	12	6.0	12	0
Jones, Gary, Pit 2	11	5.5	11	0
Williams, James, Buf	11	5.5	6	0
Plummer, Gary, S.D	7	3.5	6	0
Lang, Le-Lo, Den 2	4	2.0	4	0
Lewis, Mo, Jets2	4	2.0	3	0
Blackmon, Robert, Sea 2	0	0.0	0	0
Green, Chris, Mia 2		0.0	0	0
Patton, Marvcus, Buf 2	0	0.0	0	0
Vanhorse, Sean, S.D		0.0	0	0
Washington, Lionel, Raiders 2	0	0.0	0	0
1 Touchdown				



PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS Number: 62, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985) Yards: 692, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985) Longest for TD: 98 yards, Terance Mathis, New York (1990)

ND	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD	
Metcalf, Eric, Cle36	11	464	12.9	191	2	
Gordon, Darrien, S.D31	15	395	12.7	54	0	
Brown, Tim, Raiders 40	20	465	11.6	174	1	
McDuffie, O.J., Mia28	22	317	11.3	172	2	
Milburn, Glyn, Den 40	11	425	10.6	54	0	
Carter, Dale, K.C27	4	247	9.1	30	0	
Brown, Troy, N.E25	9	224	9.0	19	0	
Copeland, Russell, Buf31	7	274	8.8	t47	1	
Harris, Ronnie, N.E23	4	201	8.7	21	0	
Martin, Kelvin, Sea32	15	270	8.4	33	0	
Woodson, Rod, Pit 42	10	338	8.0	39	0	
Robinson, Patrick, Cin43	6	305	7.1	36	0	
Drewrey, Willie, Hou41	19	275	6.7	18	0	
Verdin, Clarence, Ind30	17	173	5.8	24	0	

NON-QUALIFIERS (2 or more)					
Hicks, Cliff, Jets17	4	157	9.2	20	0
Mathis, Terance, Jets 14	8	99	7.1	16	0
Carrier, Mark, Cle	1	92	15.3	156	1
Birden, J.J., K.C	3	43	8.6	12	0
Figures, Deon, Pit5	2	15	3.0	6	0
Pickens, Carl, Cin	2	16	4.0	9	0
Hughes, Danan, K.C3	0	49	16.3	29	0
Lewis, Nate, S.D	2	17	5.7	7	0
Crittenden, Ray, N.E2	1	37	18.5	30	0
Mincy, Charles, K.C2	0	9	4.5	9	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Numbers: 55, Bruce Harper, New York (1978, 1979) 55, David Turner, Cincinnati (1979) Yards: 1,317, Bobby Jancik, Houston (1963)

Longest: 106 yards, Nolan Smith, Kansas City (1967) TDs: 3, Ray Clayborn, New England (1977)

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NO	YARDS.	AVG	LONG	TD
Ismail, Raghib, Raiders25	605	24.2	66	0.
McDuffie, O.J., Mia32	755	23.6	48	0
Ball, Eric, Cin	501	21.8	45	0
Verdin, Clarence, Ind	1050	21.0	38	0
Crittenden, Ray, N.E23	478	20.8	44	0
Lewis, Nate, S.D	684	20.7	60	0
Bates, Michael, Sea30	603	20.1	46	0
Robinson, Patrick, Cin	567	18.9	42	0
Baldwin, Randy, Cle24	444	18.5	31	0
Copeland, Russell, Buf 24	436	18.2	28	0
Murrell, Adrian, Jets	342	14.9	23	0
NON-QUALIFIERS (2 or more)	071	00.0	10	
Russell, Derek, Den18	374	20.8	49	0
Vaughn, Jon, Sea	280	17.5	31	0
Metcalf, Eric, Cle	318	21.2	47	0
Woodson, Rod, Pit	294	19.6	44	0
Drewrey, Willie, Hou	293	19.5	34	0
Brown, Troy, N.E	243	16.2	29	0
Hughes, Danan, K.C	266	19.0	30	0
	0.000		39	0
Hoard, Leroy, Cle13	286	22.0		-
Milburn, Glyn, Den12	188	15.7	26	0
Hastings, Andre, Pit12	177	14.8	22	0
Hastings, Andre, Pit	237	21.5	44	0
Mills, John Henry, Hou	230	20.9	37	0
Stone, Dwight, Pit11	168	15.3	30	0
Wright, Alexander, Raiders 10	167	16.7	28	0
Beebe, Don, Buf	160	16.0	22	0
beeve, Doll, Bul	156	17.3	29	0
Jones, Fred, K.C9				
Prior, Anthony, Jets9	126	14.0		0
Williams, Mike, Mia8	180	22.5	39	0
Davis, Kenneth, Buf 8	100	12.5	18	0
Gault, Willie, Raiders7	187	26.7	60	0
Delpino, Robert, Den	146	20.9	49	0
Bieniemy, Eric, S.D7	110	15.7	18	0
Mathis, Terance, Jets7	102	14.6	28	0
Harris Poppie N.F.	90	15.0	19	0
Harris, Ronnie, N.E	88	17.6	25	0
Stephens, John, A.C.				0
Kirby, Terry, Mia4	85	21.3	26	7.3
Benjamin, Ryan, Cin4	78	19.5	24	0
Thompson, Leroy, Pit4	77	19.3	27	0
Anderson, Richie, Jets	66	16.5	22	0
Miles, Ostell, Cin 4	65	16.3	24	0
Vardell, Tommy, Cle 4	58	14.5	16	0
Robinson, Greg, Raiders 4	57	14.3	33	0
Williams, Harvey, K.C3	53	17.7	26	0
Culver Dodger lad	51	17.0	20	0
Culver, Rodney, Ind			-	- 20
Martin, Kelvin, Sea 3	38	12.7	15	0
Coleman, Pat, Hou3	37	12.3	16	0
Hoge, Merril, Pit3	33	11.0	15	0
Miller, Anthony, S.D2	42	21.0	29	0
Lamb, Brad, Buf2	40	20.0	23	0
Thomas, Blair, Jets2	39	19.5	28	0
Brown, Gary, Hou	29	14.5	16	0
Hendrickson, Steve, S.D	25	12.5	13	0
Magne Natrona C.D.	22	11.0		0
Means, Natrone, S.D				170
Miller, Scott, Mia2	22	11.0		0
Peat, Todd, Raiders2	18	9.0	10	0
Smith, Kevin, Raiders2	15	7.5	8	0
DATE DOLLAR D	2	1.0	2	0
Butcher, Paul, Ind2	2			
Butcher, Paul, Ind	0	0.0		0

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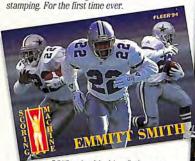
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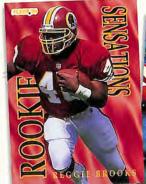
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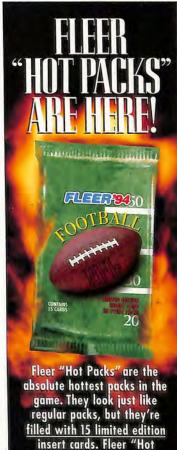
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